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RESTAURANT

**CHRISTMAS CHEER
IN THE LOUNGE**

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OTTAWA • WEEKEND, DECEMBER 19-21, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Depp goes shopping for ring

pg 34



Pedestrian dies after being hit by pickup truck

INVESTIGATION A 60-year-old man is dead after being struck by a pickup truck in Ottawa's downtown yesterday afternoon.

At 3:05 p.m., police and paramedics were called to a vehicle-pedestrian collision on Bank Street at Gloucester Avenue, where a 60-year-old male victim was found.

Police said the truck was headed south on Bank Street when the man was struck.

"When we arrived at the scene, he was still under the vehicle," said paramedic spokesman J.P. Trotter.

Paramedics treated him for life-threatening head and internal injuries at the scene.

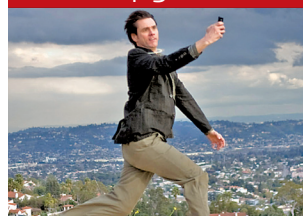
"Just as paramedics were about to leave the scene, he stopped breathing," said Trotter. "They had to insert a tube into his lungs to help him breathe."

The man was declared deceased shortly after arriving at hospital.

Police closed the intersection for about four hours while they conducted the investigation. Witnesses were still being interviewed Thursday night, police said. They are looking to determine how the man came to be on the roadway.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Movies pg 20



Yes Man takes Carrey to roots

Strike rallies Sides take to the streets



Left: Around noon Thursday, Jamie Clute and a handful of people gathered at city hall to show their support for Mayor Larry O'Brien and the city. Right: University student Pete Beaulieu and around 20 other union supporters joined ATU members on the picket lines Thursday morning. Stories, page 2



Transit talks to resume?

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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After eight days of a transit strike, a crack opened up in the ice dividing striking OC Transpo employees and the city Thursday.

Representatives from both sides could be sitting down with a federal mediator Saturday to negotiate an end to the city's transit strike.

Following a brief phone conversation Wednesday evening, Mayor Larry O'Brien and ATU international vice-president Randy Graham met for two hours Thursday morning.

"There is a lot of work to be done." Mayor Larry O'Brien

O'Brien said it was a friendly and open conversation where both sides agreed to remove the obstacles keeping them away from the negotiating table.

Throughout the strike, the union has insisted they would not return to the table unless the city removed its proposed scheduling changes from the collective bargaining agreement. However, the city has insisted it would not alter its final offer.

"Really, there was not a lot of room for movement there, so we decided to drop those two conditions and get back to the table," said O'Brien. "There is a lot of work to be done. This is going to be tough slogging; there is a lot of important and significant issues to discuss."

O'Brien said he wanted the buses to be back on the streets as soon as possible, but said the city and the union needed to come to a fair and reasonable solution. He cautioned the city's transit users not to be too enthusiastic. He said getting back to the table was only the first

step toward an agreement, and, even though there is a framework in place, they are renegotiating the entire contract.

In a memo sent to city councillors Thursday afternoon, O'Brien wrote that "nothing has been removed from the table and we have not agreed on any process in advance."

The 2,300 OC Transpo drivers, mechanics and dispatchers have been on strike since Dec. 10.

ShareYourViews

ottawaleaders@metronews.ca

Man charged in city's 10th murder of '08

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SHOOTING Ottawa police charged a 24-year-old man with first-degree murder Thursday night after the victim of a Besserer Street shooting died yesterday morning in hospital.

The 26-year-old city man was Ottawa's 10th murder of 2008.

Hours after the Wednesday shooting on the seventh floor of an apartment at 325 Besserer St., police arrested a 24-year-old male suspect at 2:30 a.m. Thursday without incident.

At 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Ottawa police responded to the report of a shooting and located a 26-year-old male victim who had been shot several times.

The victim was taken to hospital where he was listed in critical condition. He died yesterday morning from his injuries.

Police are not releasing the name of the victim pending notification of next of kin.

Members of the major crime section were processing the scene at the apartment yesterday. Investigators are confident the shooting was not random and the victim was the intended target.

Lee Tyler Batson, 24, appears in court this morning.

Anyone with information is asked to contact major crime at 613-236-1222, ext. 5493 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

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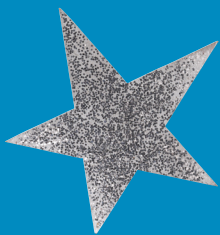


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This month, members of the Ottawa police will be working with Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the military police and the Ontario Provincial Police to check drivers to see if they are driving sober. Impaired driving is the No. 1 cause of criminal death in Canada. **METRO OTTAWA**

Local



Spend shortest day under the stars

This Sunday, celebrate the shortest day of the year with activities at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. During the day, take a sleigh ride through the museum grounds, admire the view of the night sky in the inflatable planetarium, and curl up by the roaring "fire" to listen to stories about planets and stars. In the evening, try your hand at stargazing at a free star party from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The star party is free and day-time activities are free with museum admission.

METRO OTTAWA

Both sides take to streets

Lack of protesters blamed on lack of transit

Union supporters say city not talking fair

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Several hours after residents gathered at city hall to show their support for the city's bus drivers, a smaller group met to voice their displeasure with the union.

While their numbers were small, a turnout of about a dozen people only showed how big of an effect the strike has on the city, rally organizer Ryan Swan said Thursday.

"A lot of people who would come probably couldn't get here today," he said, adding the holiday season is a bad time for a transit strike. "Every single business in Ottawa is going to suffer. It's a bad time as it is, but it's even worse this year,

"Transit should be an essential service."

Fran Psutka, Ottawa

with the economy."

Swan — who walked four hours to get to work downtown last week — said the union seems to show no sympathy for the residents of Ottawa who rely on transit and don't have alternate ways of getting to work.

Ottawa resident G.J. Hagenars said this comparatively small group of transit workers is essentially "holding the city hostage."

"We have no recourse in this matter," he said.

He attended the rally "to show my support for city council," said Hagenars.

"They have to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Although Ottawa resident Ashley Muldoon, 26, drives to work, she thinks everyone's been inconvenienced by the strike.

In an effort to make a difference, she offers lifts to people on local ride boards.

"As far as I'm concerned, transit should be an essential service," said Fran Psutka of Ottawa.

She used to take the bus almost every day. Although she has a car, she doesn't drive it in this weather, so she's limited in getting around the city, she said.

"Christmas is a really stupid time to do this," she said. "The businesses need business, especially with the economy the way it is."

"I want the strike to end as soon as possible."

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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It's easy to yell at the drivers. As the front line face of OC Transpo, they hear public complaints every day when the buses are running, and especially now that they aren't.

"It's very easy for the tide to turn against the workers. They are the ones that provide the service, so people think it's unfair that they are on strike," said Nelson Ross Laguna, who along with around 20 other union supporters joined striking OC Transpo employees in front of city hall Thursday morning.

"It is the city's failure to work out an issue ... that should have been long dealt with."

"I think it's important to show our support and call for just resolution."

Pete Beaulieu

Laguna placed the blame on the city, saying it is not negotiating fairly, and in particular he blamed the mayor for interfering in the negotiation process.

"He's trying to fight this battle in the media. If he were removed, we'd probably have a deal very quickly," he said.

OC Transpo employees on the picket line are reticent with the media and referred comments to a union spokesperson, but they seemed to appreciate the

support.

"It means people are beginning to understand what we are fighting for," said one employee at the Elgin Street entrance.

Since the buses stopped running, university student Pete Beaulieu has been forced to walk about 45 minutes to work every day.

He said it is an inconvenience, but he said the city should have resolved the issues before it came to a strike.

"They've been getting a lot of flack in the media and around the city," said Beaulieu, who joined picketers on Laurier Avenue.

"I think it's important to show our support and call for just resolution. Nobody likes this situation. It's unfortunate it had to come to this."

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Movies Showtimes, trailers reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Video Vancouver police go undercover as seniors to catch violent thieves at metronews.ca/canada

Analysis Politics 2008: From one "dysfunctional" parliament to another at metronews.ca/canada



Lotteries KENO Pick 3

Ontario Pick 3: 9 2 8; Ontario Pick 4: 1 3 4 5
Encore: 0462790; Daily Keno: 3, 6, 10, 22, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 42, 49, 52, 54, 58, 59, 61, 64, 66, 67, 69; Payday: 11, 23, 41, 52
These results are not official.

Free concerts, hockey on big screens for New Year's Eve

EVENTS New Year's Eve revellers torn between ringing in 2009 at a concert and following the 2009 IIHF world junior championship on TV will be able to have both, the National Capital Commission said Thursday.

In partnership with the NCC, the host organizing committee for the hockey championships have announced free events surrounding the New Year's Eve celebration on the Rideau Canal Skateway.

The evening will include concerts by Finger Eleven and the Amanda Rheume Band, and the Canada-U.S.A. game on big-screen TVs.

On Dec. 31, starting at 7:30 p.m. on the Samsung stage, the preliminary round between Canada and the United States will



Winterlude's mascots, the Ice Hogs, helped announce a free New Year's event in Ottawa.

be shown on four TVs.

Then, the Amanda Rheume Band will play from 10 p.m. to 10:45 p.m., and Finger Eleven

will play from 11:15 p.m. to two minutes to midnight. Samsung New Year's Eve Celebration will bring in 2009 with py-

rotechnics effects at midnight, followed by another performance from Finger Eleven at 12:15 a.m.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Health-care staff rally for funding

HOSPITALS Front-line health-care workers are planning to rally outside the Novotel Hotel on Friday as a show of support for increased funding for hospitals.

Thousands of jobs in hospitals in Ontario could be cut unless the province increases funding for health care substantially, according to the president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions.

"Hospital cuts are bad even if the province keeps its promise of 2.1 per cent funding increase," said OCHU president Michael Hurley. "With just 2.1, we anticipate up to 4,000 positions will go unfilled and up to 1,000 hospital employees would be laid off."

METRO OTTAWA

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Recognizing the significant effect that the OC Transpo strike has had on Christmas shoppers, the Bayshore Shopping Centre is giving out \$5 vouchers toward return cab rides to visitors who present a same-day taxi receipt for their ride to the mall. **METRO OTTAWA**

News in brief

SUSPECT Ottawa police are asking the public to help them identify a suspect in relation to a bank robbery at the Scotia-bank on Ridgewood Avenue on

Wednesday. The suspect is described as a black male, 18-20 years old, about 5-foot-6 and 130-140 pounds. He was clean-shaven, wearing a three-quar-

ter length dark blue or black parka with fur hood, blue jeans and black top runners. Call Crimestoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS). **METRO OTTAWA**



Happy Holidays Ottawa

I wish all Ottawa residents a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and prosperous New Year.

Larry O'Brien

Mayor Larry O'Brien

.....

Phone 613.580.2496
Fax 613.580.2509
E-mail Larry.O'Brien@ottawa.ca

www.MayorLarry.ca

Take a tomb tour of Egypt

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Most people will never get to see the inside of an ancient Egyptian tomb, the president and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization said yesterday.

That's where the museum's newest exhibit — Tombs of Eternity, which opens Friday — comes in.

"Tombs of Eternity is the closest many of us will come to entering an ancient Egyptian tomb," said Dr. Victor Rabinovitch.

"This exhibition is an invitation to discover the ancient Egyptian cult of the afterlife and personal immortality," he said. "The treasures here hold some of the secrets of life and death."

The exhibit — which includes about 200 rare and authentic artifacts unearthed by archaeologists in the early 20th century — includes three human mummies, mummified remains of animals, including a snake, mouse, crocodile, kitten and falcon, canopic jars and relics buried alongside the dead in Egyptian tombs.

The design of the exhibit



The Canadian Museum of Civilization's newest exhibit, Tombs of Eternity, is the closest many people will ever come to entering an ancient Egyptian tomb.

itself mimics the layout of an actual Egyptian tomb, said Dr. Matthew Betts, the exhibit's curator.

"Some Egyptians spent their lives preparing for death," he said. "Egyptians included models of things they thought they would need in the afterlife," he said.

These included small detailed stone statues of

favourite servants, which were buried with the deceased.

Other parts of the exhibit included a section on cosmetics and jewels that ancient Egyptians wore, as well as a section explaining the mummification process.

Tombs of Eternity is unique in terms of presentation, Rabinovitch said.

While the artifacts are usually displayed in an art gallery-type layout, the purposes of the cultural museum required a different presentation and new texts.

The museum has also "listed the names of the Egyptian men and women" whose objects or bodies are included in the exhibit, Betts said.

By reciting an offering prayer, visitors can help them live on.

"This exhibition will help fulfill the ancients' dearest wishes, which is to live for eternity," Rabinovitch said.

The exhibit, which is accompanied by the IMAX film Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs, runs through Aug. 16, 2009.

ShareYourViews

ottawalatters@metronews.ca



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Four people died and three were injured in a fire in Nipawin, Sask., on Wednesday night. A six-year-old boy and his twin sister died. A woman, 21, and a man whose age is unknown also perished. A woman, 30, was rescued from the blaze and airlifted to a hospital in Saskatoon. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Legal battle brewing

The president of AbitibiBowater says the Montreal-based newsprint giant will fight to protect its interests in central Newfoundland, following the provincial government's decision to expropriate timber and hydro resources. Premier Danny Williams, left, said Bill 75, which was passed quickly this week in the house of assembly, was a necessary move to safeguard the province's natural resources.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Spy agency listening in

CSIS monitoring calls between terror suspects and attorneys

Canada's spy service has been listening to telephone conversations between terrorism suspects and their lawyers for the past 18 months as part of a strict monitoring program developed by the government.

The revelation Thursday enraged defence lawyers who argue that intercepting these calls breaches the fundamental right of solicitor-client privilege.

"I feel as though my house was broken into," said Toronto lawyer Barb Jackman. "It's incredibly invasive."

The issue arose in the case of Egyptian refugee Mohamed Zeki Mahjoub,

"It is a privilege of the highest order and protected at the highest levels. It is a principle of fundamental justice itself."

Marlys Edwardh, lawyer

who is accused of conspiring with al-Qaida and has fought the government's attempts to deport him for the past eight years.

Mahjoub's case is one of five under the controversial immigration law known as "national security certificates."

In April 2007, Mahjoub was released on stringent bail conditions after seven years in custody. Mahjoub's lawyers recently became concerned that their calls

were also being monitored and pressed for answers.

On Wednesday, a senior agent with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service testified in a secret Ottawa hearing that the agency was monitoring calls on behalf of the Canadian Border Services Agency.

Justice Carolyn Layden-Stevenson released a two-page public summary of the testimony this morning in a Toronto courtroom. It noted that calls to lawyers are

monitored, "to the extent of being satisfied that the communication does not involve a potential breach of the terms of release or a threat to national security."

"It is a privilege of the highest order and protected at the highest levels," said Jackman's co-counsel, Toronto lawyer Marlys Edwardh, regarding communication between lawyers and their clients. "It is a principle of fundamental justice itself."

Edwardh said she cannot continue with the case until lawyers' calls are no longer monitored and planned to ask Justice Layden-Stevenson for an order on Friday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maple Leaf settles listeria class-action suit for \$25M

MEAT When lawyers began filing class-action lawsuits against Maple Leaf Foods in August claiming thousands of people had suffered from eating listeria-tainted cold cuts, company president Michael McCain fired back.

In internal e-mail memos to staff, McCain dismissed class-action lawyers and painted some of the self-professed victims as opportunists making the "faintest, thinnest of claims of so-called emotional stress or illness (tummy ache stuff)."

That tone changed yesterday when Maple Leaf settled

the class-action lawsuit with victims of the listeria outbreak, committing to pay between \$25 million and \$27 million in compensation. Under the agreement, victims of listeria-induced stomach aches stand to receive potentially thousands of dollars from the company.

"Our goal throughout this legal process has been to negotiate a fair and early settlement so that we can obtain ... promptly compensate families who were affected," McCain said in a statement issued Thursday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Our goal throughout this legal process has been to negotiate a fair and early settlement."

Michael McCain, Maple Leaf president

Federal deficit could hit \$30B next year

ECONOMY Prime Minister Stephen Harper plans a major stimulus package to rescue the economy that will drive the federal budget deficit to between \$20 billion and \$30 billion next year.

The massive spending the Tories have in mind includes a bailout

package for the struggling North American automakers, according to a senior government official.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who vowed during the election campaign never to run a budget deficit, now says the extra spending is needed in

response to the unexpectedly deep recession and demands from Canadians to help them cope with the global economic crisis.

Much of the plan to strengthen and stabilize the economy will be focused on federal spending to help cities build and repair urban infrastructure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HEALTH Health Canada urged parents Thursday not to give over-the-counter cold medicines to children under the age of six, citing concern over misuse and overdoses. Labels will be mandatory next year.

VANCOUVER Police have gone undercover in the city's Downtown Eastside posing as seniors to halt robberies of older men in the area. Muggings have decreased 59 per cent since the project began two months ago.

BABIES A one-time set of steroid injections for pregnant women at risk of giving birth prematurely can head off major problems for the baby, but more injections give no benefit, Canadian researchers said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Quebec Cabinet strikes gender equality



Quebec Premier Jean Charest, centre, stands up after posing with his newly appointed cabinet at the National Assembly in Quebec City on Thursday. Half of the 26 cabinet ministers are women.

MATHEU BELANGER/REUTERS

WINTER SOLSTICE

DECEMBER 21

ACTIVITIES: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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In the evening, try your hand at stargazing at a free Star Party! Weather permitting - outdoor activity.

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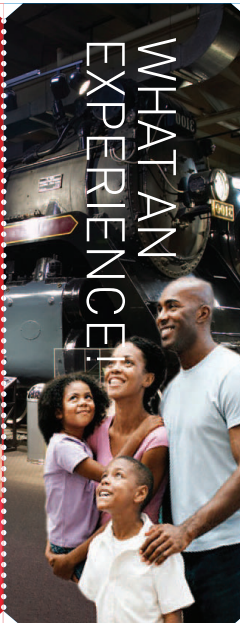
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EU farm ministers overwhelmingly rejected a proposal yesterday to lift Europe's 11-year ban on U.S. poultry imports, despite strict conditions designed to ensure consumer safety. A dispute over chlorine-washed chickens has soured the European Union's relations with the United States, its largest trading partner, since the EU embargo was imposed in 1997. **REUTERS**

World



Breakfast eaters healthier

Breakfast may be the most important meal of the day — as long as that meal is not a doughnut, according to a new study. In a survey of U.S. adults, researchers found that people who ate lower-calorie foods for breakfast tended to have a better diet overall. Men who ate a healthy breakfast generally weighed less. Among women, breakfast eaters — regardless of the food involved — tended to weigh less. **REUTERS**

Liberals slam Russian laws

Russian liberals have appealed to President Dmitry Medvedev to veto a set of new laws they say could lead to purges reminiscent of the Stalin era.

The government has submitted to parliament, which is dominated by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party, a bill that broadens the interpretation of treason and espionage to include the vague definition of "acts against the constitutional order."

Opponents say this could open the door to arbitrary trials against dissenters at home, whereas the nar-

"Thanks to these amendments, anyone who has drunk coffee with a secretary of a foreign embassy can be nabbed."

Dmitry Oreshkin, independent political analyst

rower definition was used exclusively to describe co-operation with foreign intelligence services.

In another move that has scared Russian liberals, parliament adopted a law under which a single judge rather than a jury will decide in trials of treason, espionage, terrorism, hostage-taking, mutinies, sabotage and civil unrest.

"Jury trials, as a rare element of civil society's control over courts, have been blatantly stolen to favour secret services," leading liberals said in a letter published in the independent Novaya Gazeta paper.

"Dozens of innocent people could be jailed or evicted," they said in the letter.

Russian human rights campaigners accuse for-

mer president Vladimir Putin of backtracking on democratic reforms and turning Russia into a police state.

"Thanks to these amendments, anyone who has drunk coffee with a secretary of a foreign embassy can be nabbed, just like me for talking to you," independent political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin told Reuters.

By adopting tougher laws the Kremlin could be seeking to keep a lid on dissent, fearing outbursts of social anger as the global crisis bites. **REUTERS**

Keep ties with Russia, Bush urges successor

POLITICS Preparing to leave office, U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday advised his successor to try to stay friends with Russia despite disagreements.

"There's common interest and there's going to be a lot of tensions," Bush said at the conservative American Enterprise Institute think tank.

"The president has got to be in a position where he can deal with those tensions in a way that doesn't send chilling signals with other allies."

While not mentioning president-elect Barack Obama directly, Bush has recently emphasized efforts he says his successor

"There's common interest and there's going to be a lot of tensions."

George W. Bush

should continue.

Bush famously said after meeting then-president Vladimir Putin in 2001 that he trusted the Russian leader after gaining a "sense of his soul."

Putin, who is now prime minister but still thought to effectively run the country, later clashed with Bush on several issues and took steps U.S. officials saw as counter to democratic reforms. **REUTERS**

Hamas cancels Israel ceasefire

GAZA Hamas declared an end to a six-month-old Egyptian-brokered ceasefire with Israel on Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

"The calm is over," Hamas official Ayman Taha said after talks with Palestinian factions.

He said the ceasefire, scheduled to expire on Dec. 19, would not be renewed because they failed to ease a blockade of the Gaza Strip. Hamas stopped short of threatening immediate escalation against Israel. **REUTERS**

Paris Demanding release of political prisoners



Singer Jane Birkin speaks as, from left, Tina Kieffer, editor of French women's magazine Marie-Claire, and French-Algerian director Yamina Benguigui listen at a protest Thursday in Paris demanding the freedom of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

News in brief

INDIA The government rushed a new law through parliament Thursday that will allow police to hold suspects for up to 180 days, a move legal officials said is an attempt to allay public anger over the Mumbai attacks. India's lower house of parliament unanimously passed two bills on Wednesday, one allowing the police to hold suspects for 180

days without charge and the other to create a national police agency similar to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States.

GUANTANAMO The Pentagon is working on a proposal to shut the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that would be available to president-elect Barack Obama

once he takes office, a defense official said Thursday. U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates asked his staff to come up with a plan to address the thorny issue of how to close the prison in southeast Cuba that Obama has pledged to shutter after he officially enters the White House. Guantanamo has about 250 detainees. **REUTERS**

Life sentence for colonel after Rwandan genocide

CRIME A UN court sentenced a former army colonel accused of masterminding the slaughter of 800,000 people in Rwanda in 1994 to life in prison Thursday.

The Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) had accused Theoneste Bagosora, 67, of being in charge of the troops and Interahamwe Hutu militia who butchered 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate

Hutus in 100 days.

"Colonel Bagosora is guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes," the court said.

Prosecutors said Bagosora, then cabinet director in the Defence Ministry, assumed control of military and political affairs in the African country after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed when his plane was shot down. **REUTERS**

Obama briefed on Iraq plans by military chief

WAR The top U.S. military officer briefed president-elect Barack Obama this week on commanders' plans for troop levels in Iraq, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell would not say whether the plans matched Obama's stated desire to get all U.S. combat forces out of Iraq in 16 months. Obama's opposi-

tion to the Iraq war was a major part of his election campaign but he has also said he wants a responsible withdrawal.

The U.S. has some 143,000 troops in Iraq. The New York Times, citing unnamed U.S. military officials, reported yesterday that top commanders proposed removing 7,000 to 8,000 troops in the first half of 2009. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

The suburban appeal

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Suburbia has been, for three generations at least, the social equivalent of pork rinds or supermarket tabloids — something no one has a good word for, though it continues to exist, even thrive, in spite of blanket condemnation by those who “know better.”

Moviegoers are getting a chance to revisit this spacious, tree-lined hell this Christmas with the release of *Revolutionary Road*, the Oscar favourite that reunites Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, and allows director Sam Mendes to take another swing at

the same target he savaged almost a decade ago with *American Beauty*.

Based on Richard Yates' 1961 novel, it's the story of the Wheelers, Frank and April, who have somehow managed to take up residence in that epicentre of middle-class despair — the post-war, northeastern commuter suburb — while presuming themselves much better than the “hopeless emptiness” they see everywhere. Or not — there wouldn't be much of a story if they didn't realize, with a shock, that they've become trapped in that most awful of mid-century nightmares (in mid-century novels, at least): Material comfort and routine.

Yates' book was one of

the first to define the conventional wisdom on suburbs, a viewpoint voiced almost entirely by people who don't live there, and echoed vociferously by the young people who claim to have “escaped” them — an image that requires us to equate freeways with barbed-wire fences, and malls with guard

towers.

In the conventional wisdom, the greatest threat posed by suburbs is that they have the temerity to grow, or “sprawl,” in urban studies jargon, which sums up the paradox of the suburban problem: That people actually want to live in these terrible places, no matter how many novels, movies, magazine articles or learned studies con-

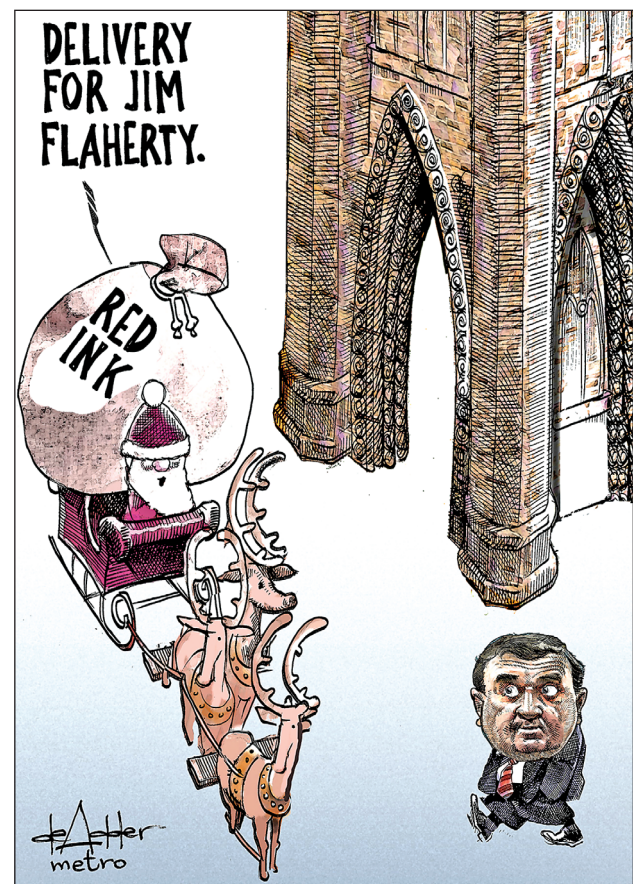
demn them.

It requires that we look at suburbs as places that never change, or that their essence is frozen in the mid-century form described by Yates and others — an eternal Levittown, where the saplings never turn into trees, and no one ever puts a skate ramp in the pool or builds a grow-op in the rec room.

In his zeal to reprise his suburb-bashing, Mendes was probably blind to how his tragedy would actually play. Most people will probably watch *Revolutionary Road* and envy Frank and April's cute home with its very collectible period furnishings and the woods across the road and wonder if they could move in tomorrow, hopeless emptiness be damned.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In the conventional wisdom, the greatest threat posed by suburbs is that they have the temerity to grow, or 'sprawl.'



Letters

Women can and should make a difference

Until recently, it was unusual to see women writing in the Comments section under regional and national media print and online political stories. That has changed, and now we see some thoughtful comments from women in among mostly male comments.

I say thank goodness. It's about time that women spoke up — after all, they are about 50 per cent of eligible voters.

Too many women stayed away from the polls this last October election — I don't expect that to happen in those numbers next election as women realize they can make a difference.

DON WILSON, MASSTOWN, N.S.

Automakers aren't the only industry in need of aid

I am extremely saddened to see the amount of attention the automotive-industry bailout is getting in the media. It is understandable that most people want to keep the many jobs being held

down by those in southern Ontario, yet I rarely see the devastating news of layoffs and mill closures in smaller communities like Kenora, Ont., Dryden, Ont., Thunder Bay, Ont., Terrace Bay, Ont., and Fort Frances, Ont., over the past few years.

For Dryden, a one-industry town, the continued cutting of staff and the permanent shutdown of its paper machine this year leaves many wondering about the stability of the town. Many teenagers who leave to attend college and university never come back as there are few jobs to be had in their field.

Yes, these towns are considerably smaller than the giant cities in southern Ontario, but deserve just as much attention by our governments and media than they have been receiving.

Perhaps if more was done to create and keep the existing jobs, many wouldn't be forced to leave and go to other parts of the country to earn their living.

VICKI WALCHUK, TORONTO

Views

Parliament, transit: This city is on the blink

UrbanCompass

Steve Collins

The time in Ottawa: 12:00 ... 12:00 ... 12:00. This city's on the blink.

The new Parliament went from dysfunction to malfunction in just more than two weeks. This week, our finance minister admitted — from Saskatoon — that the country will run a deficit next year, projected to total at least \$5 billion.

Coincidentally, that's about the cost of cutting one percentage point off the GST, something his government has done twice. Canada's cash-em-

barrassed cities have campaigned in vain for a point of that tax to help with their ever-growing bills and vintage infrastructure.

Which brings us to the transit strike, now passed its 10th day (and happy anniversary, by the way). Coupled with many flavours of god-awful winter weather, the walkout has packed the roads with hapless and exasperated motorists, but so far failed to produce the dire gridlock repeatedly predicted by city officials and the media.

It seems that those who have the luxury of choosing to travel outside of rush hour, work from home or just take a couple days off are doing so. And then there are those who normally take the bus because they have no choice. Now they walk or stay home.

As a result, office cubi-

cles are abandoned, school and medical appointments missed, charities starved of their volunteers.

The bus-fed Rideau Centre, usually a congested march of the damned at this time of year, is disturbingly peaceful. The mall's management calculates that instead of the usual 475,000 dead-eyed, bone-weary holiday consumers it sees in a week, it's getting perhaps 260,000.

Indeed, late Wednesday afternoon, there was elbowroom galore in the deserted aisles of Sears and plenty of space in the mall's thoroughfares for passersby to stiffly avoid the adorable young couple in Santa hats who were giving out free hugs.

How much longer will we wait for the bus? The signs are not encouraging.

The city and the union aren't even speaking to each other, preferring instead to kvetch daily about each other's intransigence in the media.

Even that sorry strategy didn't quite work as planned, as Capital Coun. Clive Doucet freelanced his opinion that it's time to get an arbitrator and stop this madness. Mayor Larry O'Brien waspishly insisted that only he speaks for council, and that the madness will continue.

On the union side, ATU 279 president Andre Cornellier this week stopped talking to the media, reportedly after receiving e-mail threats against himself and his family. It seems, amid all these other breakdowns, someone's sense of proportion and basic humanity has gone on the fritz, too.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawalatters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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Chrysler, which is halting factory operations for a month as sales and cash dwindle, will not abandon its involvement in NASCAR racing but will reduce spending by about one-third to put expenses in line with its revenue, the company said Thursday. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Boxing Day comes early

Retailers try to kickstart sales with blockbuster deals

As the economic news worsens, Canadian retailers are pushing hard to convince consumers they can get their best deals now instead of waiting until after Christmas.

Several national retailers, including Danier Ltd. and Sears Canada, are using "Boxing Day" in their advertising messages to draw attention to their pre-Christmas deals.

Every luxury chains, like Birks, have resorted to "Buy one, get one 50 per

"The thing that's really surprised us is just how fast (the economic downturn) has happened."

Derek Nighbor

cent off," a strategy normally associated with more mid-market clothing retailers.

"I think it's the deepest discounts that we've seen

ever at this time of year," said Wendy Evans, a principal with Evans & Company, a Toronto consulting firm. Retailers "are looking at any opportunities they can to lure consumers into the stores before Christmas."

"The thing that's really surprised us is just how fast it (the economic downturn) has happened," said Derek Nighbor, vice-president of prescient national affairs for the Retail Council of Canada. "I think the

question everyone is waiting on is how bad it's going to get."

A survey conducted for Scotiabank in mid-November found Canadians planned to spend just \$790 on average, or 13 per cent less than last year, on holiday gifts, entertainment and travel.

Amid the worsening economic news, retailers have resorted to increasingly aggressive tactics to stand out from the pack, consultants say. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Germany Sign of the times



A share trader is pictured behind a mock one-dollar U.S. bill and a mock 500 Euro note symbolizing a consumer credit note at the German stock exchange in Frankfurt. Corporate sentiment deteriorated for the seventh month running in December, raising pressure on the European Central Bank to cut rates further to counter what could be Germany's deepest post-war recession.

More financial regulation, Obama vows

ECONOMY U.S. president-elect Barack Obama promised yesterday to strengthen financial regulatory agencies and crack down on runaway "greed and scheming" in an effort to restore stability to a reeling U.S. economic system. Obama named veteran regulator Mary Schapiro as



Mary Schapiro

chairwoman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Gary Gensler to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The president-elect said he would charge them with overhauling the financial regulatory system: "These individuals will help put in place new, common-sense rules of the road that will protect investors, consumers and our entire economy from fraud and manipulation." **REUTERS**

Bankruptcy an option for Chrysler

AUTOS As Chrysler prepared to shut down all of its factories for a month, U.S. President George W. Bush is weighing the option of a managed bankruptcy in the U.S. auto industry as it works out details of an aid package for U.S. automakers that is close to being finalized, the White House said.

There is an "orderly way to do bankruptcies that provides for more of a soft landing," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said. "That would be one of the options. I'm not saying that is necessarily what would be announced." **REUTERS**

In brief

WIRELESS After issuing a rare profit warning earlier this month, BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion Ltd. gave investors some Christmas cheer by reporting a "best-ever start to the holiday buying season" on \$396 million US in income, up 7 per cent, and forecasting an improved \$3.3 billion to \$3.5 billion US in revenue. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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business 13

'Barrage' to hit auto-parts firms

INDUSTRY Deteriorating economic conditions will hammer profits in the auto-parts industry by 58 per cent, or almost \$1 billion, this year and in 2009, a gloomy Conference Board of Canada report says.

In sharp contrast to a forecast last spring, the board said yesterday that profits for auto-parts companies will plunge 38 per cent this year, to \$1.05 billion from \$1.69 billion, and fall to \$700 million, down another 32 per cent, in 2009 — the lowest forecast the board has made since the study began in 1999.

"Canada's motor-vehicle parts manufacturing industry is being forced to

put on the brakes as a result of an unrelenting barrage of structural and macroeconomic developments that have materialized over the last two years," board economist Sabrina Browarski said in the report.

Output will also fall for a fourth consecutive year in 2009, the board said. Revenues will tumble 17 per cent or almost \$5 billion to \$22.8 billion this year and slip another 3.4 per cent to \$22.1 billion in 2009.

The board said parts makers now face a "pronounced" slowdown in consumer demand, tighter credit standards and further losses to low-cost for-

On the up and up

- The board said revenues and profits will start increasing again in 2010.
- Profits will improve to almost \$1 billion in 2010 and climb to \$1.17 billion in 2011.

eign countries, including China and Mexico.

"A hesitant American consumer, a strong Canadian dollar by historical standards and global financial market turmoil are among the key challenges that will precipitate further difficulties within the parts sector," Browarski added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TransCanada on board for TransAlta carbon project

PIPELINE TransCanada Corp. is joining power generator TransAlta Corp. in a major Alberta carbon capture and storage proposal to provide expertise in pipelines to the project, TransAlta said Thursday.

TransAlta's Project Pioneer, which could cost more than \$400 million, would take carbon emitted from a coal-fired power plant in the Wabamun region near Edmonton and inject it underground, as well as pipe it to old oil fields, where it would boost crude production.

TransAlta did not give fi-

Provincial funds

- Alberta has earmarked \$2 billion for carbon-capture technology development as it seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the province's extensive energy facilities.

nancial terms for TransCanada's participation.

The company said it is also looking for partners in the oil industry as it seeks funding from Ottawa as well as the Alberta government.

REUTERS

Oil steadies after lowest barrel price since 2004

MARKET Oil held above \$36 Thursday, after falling more than 20 per cent this week to its lowest since June 2004 as OPEC's record supply cut failed to put a floor under prices.

Oil is now more than \$110 off its July peak, having shed a third of its value just this month as a global recession cuts into fuel.

U.S. light crude for January delivery, which expires Friday, rose three cents to \$36.25 a barrel at 1:21 a.m. GMT, after falling earlier to \$35.98, the first time below \$36 since late June 2004.

REUTERS

OPEC's 2009 revenue to dip by \$151B

OIL Declining prices, lower crude demand and production cuts will cost OPEC another \$151 billion US in lost oil-export revenue next year, the U.S. government's top energy forecasting agency said.

The U.S. recession and the weak global economy has lowered oil demand

and pushed down oil prices sharply.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will cut back its production to try to stem the freefall in crude prices, saying on Wednesday it would cut output by 2.2 million barrels per day beginning in January.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration said it expects OPEC members to comply with about half their production cuts. The EIA lowered its monthly forecast for OPEC's oil export revenue during 2009 by 25 per cent to \$444 billion, the lowest level since 2004.

REUTERS

Business in brief

WORKFORCE The sickly U.S. labour market showed little sign of improvement last week and continued weakness in the manufacturing sector held out no hope that unemployed workers would find a place. Government data showed that the number of U.S. workers filing new claims for jobless benefits remained at recessionary levels last week, even though they eased from a 26-year peak. The claims were up by

more than 200,000 from a year ago and waves of layoffs announced by large corporations give little prospect they will ease.

CREDIT U.S. regulators approved new rules Thursday to curb "unfair" credit-card practices such as surprise fees and interest rate hikes, but activists and lawmakers said the rules do not go far enough and will not help consumers

now. The rules, due to take effect on July 1, 2010, prohibit raising the annual percentage rate on existing balances except under certain circumstances, and give consumers 45 days notice before a rate increase and 21 days to pay. The rules will also ban universal default, in which card terms are changed based on how the holder performs on other bills, such as utilities or gym memberships. **REUTERS**

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According to various media reports, Maple Leafs GM Brian Burke was upset he was not invited to Trevor Linden's jersey retirement ceremony Wednesday. Burke was the Vancouver Canucks' assistant GM when Linden was drafted in 1988, and was GM while Linden played there for several seasons. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Whitt, Morneau in for WBC

Ernie Whitt, left, will manage Canada's team at the World Baseball Classic, while Minnesota Twins first baseman Justin Morneau has been named the squad's first player. The March 5 to 23 World Baseball Classic will be played in several cities around the world, including Toronto. Canada opens play March 7 against the U.S. at the Rogers Centre. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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NHL RESULT

Flyers 2 Canadiens 5



Sergei Kostitsyn, Steve Be-
gin and Guillaume Laten-
dresse each posted a goal
and an assist as the Cana-
diens knocked off the Fly-
er last night. Alex Kovalev
and Matt D'Agostini also
lit the lamp for the Cana-
diens, who snapped a
three-game losing streak.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 5 Philadelphia 2
Boston 8 Toronto 5
Carolina 2 Florida 1 (OT)
Colorado 2 Tampa Bay 1 (SO)
Detroit 6 San Jose 0
Pittsburgh 6 Atlanta 3
Washington 4 St. Louis 2
Columbus at Dallas
Nashville at Phoenix

Second feels pretty good

Olympic champion Jennifer Heil returned with a bang, capturing a silver medal at the World Cup freestyle skiing circuit yesterday.

She placed second to American Hannah Kearney in the woman's dual moguls. The Spruce Grove, Alta., native sat out all of last season to recover from a knee injury and improve her technique.

Heil finished fourth in qualifying and posted victories in her quarter-final and semifinal.

The four-time overall World Cup champion and gold medalist at the 2006 Turin Olympics says she lost against Kearney because she lost control.

Fellow Canadian Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau landed



PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER HEIL

Jennifer Heil returned from a season-long hiatus to capture the silver in her return to the World Cup freestyle circuit.

a gold medal, defeating teammate Alexandre Biledeau, who Rousseau says beat him at the Canadian championships last season. Audrey Robichaud of Quebec City was ninth, Stephanie St-Pierre of Vic-

torieville, Que., 12th, Maxime Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal 13th, Kristi Richards of Summerland, B.C., 16th and Chloe Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal 21st.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sundin selects Vancouver over lure of the Big Apple

JEFF HODSON
for Metro Canada



Santa Claus, it turns out, is a big fan of the Vancouver Canucks.

And in that spirit of giving, Thursday he plopped a big Swedish present into a pair of hockey socks that had dangled from Vancouver's collective mantle since July. Mats Sundin is the newest member of the Vancouver Canucks, general manager Mike Gillis announced. The 37-year-old free-agent centre was signed to a one-year,

pro-rated \$10-million US deal, according to media reports. "I am truly excited to be joining the Canucks," said Sundin in a statement. "Once I made the decision to return to play a few weeks ago, the Vancouver opportunity was simply the best overall fit."

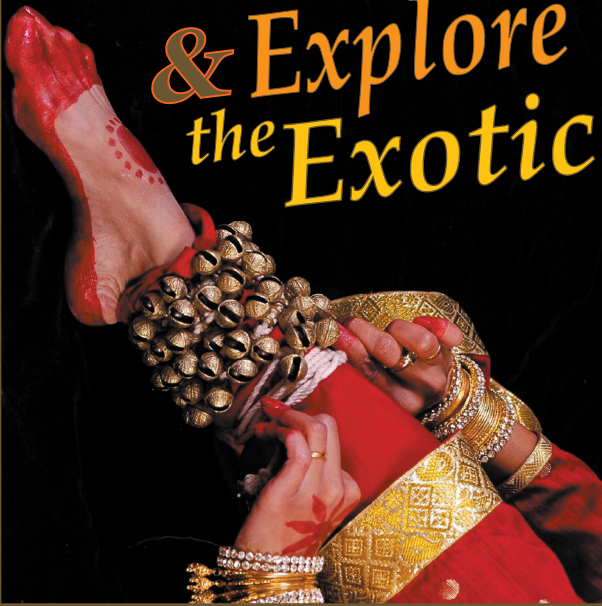
Sundin, at his home in Sweden for Christmas, will be in Vancouver on Dec. 27. There is no timeline for him to enter the lineup,

Gillis said, and he will be treated like any other player returning from injury or absence. A number of suitors, including the New York Rangers, were also seeking to sign the former Toronto captain.



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NFL A Texas farewell



GETTY IMAGES

Barring playoff games, the Dallas Cowboys will play their final game at 37-year-old Texas Stadium Saturday night against the Baltimore Ravens. The unique hole in the roof once led former Cowboys linebacker D.D. Lewis to quip, "Texas Stadium has a hole in the roof so God can watch his favourite team."

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Cincinnati Police arrested Mississippi men's basketball coach Andy Kennedy early Thursday after a cab driver said the coach punched him while calling him "bin Laden" and other racial insults. Kennedy was charged with a first-degree misdemeanor count of assault. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Yanks show off new arms

The New York Yankees introduced a new pair of aces at the top of the rotation on Thursday in free agents CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, who they hope will re-arm them for another run at a championship.

Their contracts, worth a combined \$243.5 million, made the biggest splash at Major League Baseball's recent winter meetings and gave evidence that the new Steinbrenner regime was determined to launch the new Yankee Stadium with a winner. Sabathia, who signed the richest contract ever for a pitcher at \$161 million for seven years, pondered the Yankees' mammoth offer for a month, leaving many to believe he would instead join a team on the West Coast where he grew up. "The whole time I was



New Yankee additions A.J. Burnett, left, and CC Sabathia meet the New York media yesterday.

trying to make a decision for me and my family," the 28-year-old told reporters, admitting "there was some attraction" to

staying in California.

Burnett, who agreed to a five-year \$82.5 million contract, was 18-10 record last season for the Toron-

to Blue Jays and said he was confident he had overcome his injury-plagued past. As a young kid growing up in the game, I threw hard and really that's all I did," the fireballing Burnett, 31, said.

"I aired it out between starts. I was proud of what I had and showed it off. I didn't take care of myself the way I do now."

Cashman said he listened to Johnny Damon, Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter, who all lobbied him to obtain Burnett. "His stuff is electric," the general manager said.

Yankee manager Joe Girardi grinned broadly when asked to assess his top starters, including Wang Chien-ming, who returns after missing most of last season because of injury. **REUTERS**

Jawai cleared to practise for Raptors

There were nights when sleep wouldn't come to Nathan Jawai, nights when he would toss and turn and worry about his future and his health.

That's what happens when a seemingly healthy 22-year-old is told there are issues with his heart, issues big enough that he couldn't do the one thing he loves most, issues serious enough that he had to halt all physical activity.

But as he stood next to the doorway of the Air Canada Centre practise gym yesterday, perspiration dripping off him after a nice time on the treadmill and even greater time on the basketball court, those sleepless nights were the furthest thing from his mind.

"No stress, no sleepless nights any more," the Raptors rookie said.

Jawai, a 6-10, 280-pound Australian taken 41st overall in last June's NBA draft, has been idle for almost three months now. Doctors



Jawai, the first aboriginal Australian player in NBA history, was sidelined with heart concerns.

found something disturbing with his heart during pre-season testing and shut him down. He's had test after test since that day, and also a period of extended inactivity that finally ended Tuesday when cardiologists cleared him to play. Those weeks and weeks of waiting were the most difficult of his young life, a situation exacerbated by the fact he was half a world away from his family.

"It was real hard," he said. "The support's back home. But I got a lot of support, a lot of phone calls from my mom and dad, telling me to put my head up, that was really helpful during the three months I was out."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tonight



Sports in brief

NHL St. Louis Blues captain Eric Brewer will be out indefinitely with a herniated disc in his back, the team announced yesterday. Brewer will undergo surgery today at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. The 29-year-old has recorded one goal and five assists in 28 games this season and has not played since Dec. 11

against the Kings. In 10 seasons with the Islanders, Oilers and Blues, Brewer has 179 points in 623 games.

NFL Minnesota Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson will start Sunday against the Atlanta Falcons in place of Gus Frerotte.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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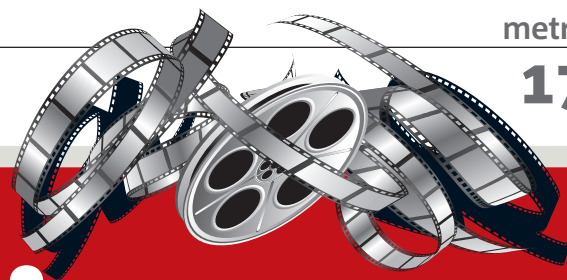
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Movies & Entertainment

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Movies

A new man

Pg 18



Will Smith's character is armed with sunken eyes and a haunted posture — these are the hallmarks of the traumatized man he plays in the new drama *Seven Pounds*. Smith's committed to giving us a 180-degree turn from his usual charming go-getters.

movie

Pg 20



Yes Man shows Carrey back at humble, funny roots.

music

Pg 26



Fall Out Boy, no strangers to celebrity, are fighting back.

7th heaven

Pg 30

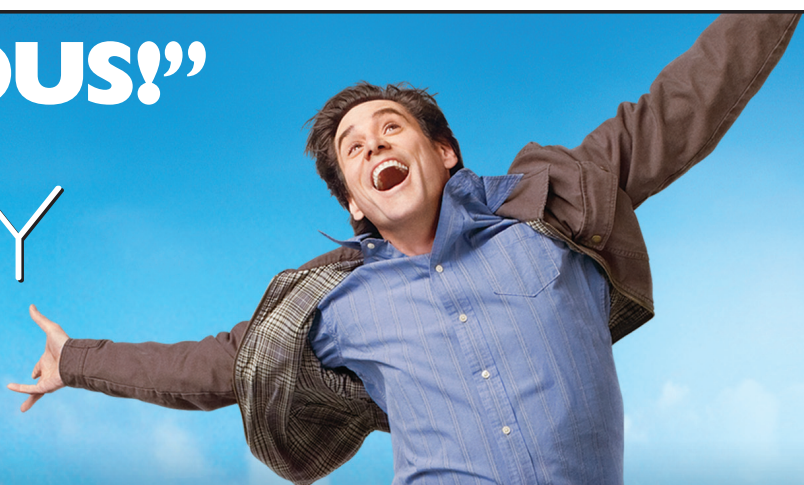


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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Seven Pounds weighs on viewers

Seven Pounds

Director: Gabriele Muccino
Stars: Will Smith, Rosario Dawson
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●

ROBERT ABELE
for Metro Canada



It's an unusual sight, Will Smith looking uncomfortable in his own skin, armed with sunken eyes and a haunted posture.

These are the hallmarks of the traumatized character he plays in the new drama Seven Pounds — and as committed as the box office star is to giving us a 180-degree turn from his usual charming go-getters, the movie around him is something of an overly manipulative, good-for-you slog.

Smith stars as Ben Thomas, a man in full-on suffering from the emotional after-effects of a traumatic incident, the details of which the movie



Will Smith stars in the drama Seven Pounds.

keeps hidden until the end, but aren't hard to ascertain.

Spurred to seek redemption, he takes it upon himself to intrude upon and help the lives of seven carefully chosen people, including a hospitalized boy, a blind call center worker (Woody Harrelson), and a beautiful cardiac patient (Rosario Dawson).

Dawson's character, an artisan typesetter with a bum heart and financial problems, naturally becomes the unsuspecting catalyst to Ben's accepting love in his austere determined life.

Rather than lay all their cards on the table as to what Ben is up to, screenwriter Grant Nieporte and director Gabriele Muccino

traffic in ersatz suspense, keeping the nature of Ben's sacrificial charity mission secret so that the love story carries maximum tearjerk power when it reaches its twist ending.

It's an audience game that diverts our energies away from the human emotions, though.

And unfortunately, the big reveal is no surprise, and even comes off as faintly ludicrous and bizarre, something for an episode of Ripley's Believe It or Not rather than a touching drama of two souls — each with a different version of a broken heart — finding each other.

It's all especially dispiriting considering how well Smith and director Muccino worked on their previous collaboration, the emotionally tense and genuinely uplifting The Pursuit of Happyness. Smith and Dawson are fine actors, but they're trapped in a movie in which they're more pawns than people.

Doubt leads SAG nominations

AWARDS Film drama Doubt led all nominees for Screen Actors Guild awards yesterday with five nominations overall, including for best ensemble cast, even as talk of a possible strike cast a cloud over the awards.

Joining Doubt, about a Catholic priest and nun engaged in a battle of wits over charges of sexual abuse, in the race for best ensemble cast were Milk, about slain gay-rights leader Harvey Milk, and The Curious Case of Ben-

jamin Button, which tells of a man who ages backward. Those movies each earned three SAG award nods.

Slumdog Millionaire, a tale of romance and money set in India, and Frost/Nixon, which recounts the interviews of disgraced former U.S. president Richard Nixon by British TV host David Frost, also saw their actors land in the race for best ensemble cast and pulled down two nominations apiece.

REUTERS

SAG nominees

- Actor: Richard Jenkins, The Visitor; Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon; Sean Penn, Milk; Brad Pitt, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler.
- Actress: Anne Hathaway, Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie, Changeling; Melissa Leo, Frozen River; Meryl Streep, Doubt; Kate Winslet, Revolutionary Road.
- Supporting actor: Josh Brolin, Milk; Robert Downey Jr., Tropic Thunder; Philip Seymour Hoffman, Doubt; Heath

- Ledger, The Dark Knight; Dev Patel, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Supporting actress: Amy Adams, Doubt; Penelope Cruz, Vicky Cristina Barcelona; Viola Davis, Doubt; Taraji P. Henson, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Kate Winslet, The Reader.
- Cast: Doubt, Frost/Nixon, Milk, Slumdog Millionaire, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.
- Stunt ensemble: The Dark Knight, Hellboy II: The Golden Army, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Iron Man, Wanted.

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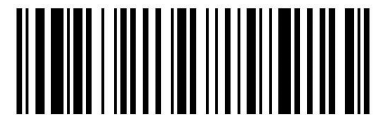
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Harrison Ford is taking a break from fighting bad guys and saving the world to try his hand in a comedic role. The 66-year-old actor has signed on to the film *Morning Glory*, the Hollywood Reporter says. **MSN.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Carrey agreeable in comedy *Yes Man*

Yes Man

Director: Peyton Reed

Stars: Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



REVIEW Jim Carrey has a fatal flaw — his fans aren't sure what to expect from him anymore. After years of exploring slapstick in laughers like *Ace Ventura*, Carrey has meandered into melodramatic muck like *The Majestic*

and *The Number 23* in an effort to be taken seriously.

With *Yes Man*, it seems Carrey may be heeding his film's own counsel and just enjoying the ride come what may.

It's definitely an approach that works for him — if not entirely for the movie.

Based on a true memoir, Carrey plays a pessimistic bank loan officer who avoids friends to spend evenings alone and basically wallow in his misery.

After being convinced by a self-help guru to "make a covenant" and

say yes to everything, he suddenly finds a world of opportunity — for better or worse.

For Carrey the character, that means taking up an online mail-order bride, attending a Harry Potter-themed party, plowing back Red Bulls all night and falling for a free-spirited musician.

For Carrey the actor, it means getting to re-explore both his famed physical stuntwork.

Sometimes it works, sometimes not, but the truth is, this comedy has a lot of heart and in spite of its formulaic conclusion.

Classic story gets new tail

The Tale of Despereaux

Director: Sam Fell and Robert Stevenhagen

Stars: Matthew Broderick, Emma Watson

Classification: G

Rating: ●●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



The Tale Of Despereaux is a classically told fairy tale that relishes the conventions and limitations of its genre.

The story feels almost old fashioned in the

earnestness of its style and message, but in a weird way that's what elevates it over the ever-growing pile of CGI children's films clogging theatres. This is hardly the most original movie of its kind, but it is oddly refreshing to see a movie like this told without a shred of irony.

Matthew Broderick lends his instantly recognizable voice to the titular character of Despereaux, a mouse with massive ears and an inflated sense of courage who dreams of adventure and heroism.

While the rest of the mice who live hidden in a medieval castle lead an insular life in fear of humans, Despereaux ventures out of his community to save a dying kingdom. Like I said, pretty standard stuff, but the screenplay by Gary Ross is so tightly constructed and filled with gentle humor that the intended audience won't notice. It's undoubtedly Ross' contribution that made this potentially clichéd story work. Ross has made a career out of writing gentle fantasies like *Big Fish*, *Seabiscuit*, and *Pleasantville* that make traditional storytelling, plots, and messages feel alive and new. His script is brought

to life admirably by the directing team of Sam Fell and Robert Stevenhagen, who use their many years of experience in animation to create a technical marvel that doesn't quite match the triumphs of Pixar, but comes damn close.

As is expected, the voice cast is filled with recognizable actors, but rather than simply casting stars the film uses talented actors like Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, and William H. Macy to play characters who are actually suited to their talents.

Make no mistake, this is a very simple movie offering simple pleasures. But in a time when most children's entertainment is struggling to seem cynical, edgy, and hip, *The Tale Of Despereaux* offers an unexpected breath of fresh air.



Matthew Broderick voices Despereaux.

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A Taraji-fest with Brad Pitt

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



FEATURE When Taraji Henson found out she was going to be co-starring alongside Brad Pitt in their new drama *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, you'd think the young actress would've brushed up on her famous co-star's filmography. Instead, it was Pitt who celebrated what he called "Taraji-fest."

"He made it a point to watch all of my films," said Henson during a recent interview.

"He was so impressed with what I was doing with my character Queenie that he wanted to see other stuff that I had done and he watched all of my films and had nothing but good things to say."

Best recognized for her turn in 2005's *Hustle & Flow*, critics have also had nothing but good things to say about Henson — especially since portraying the adopted mother of Benjamin Button (Pitt), a man who is born in his 80s and mysteriously

ages backward.

"Age is such a big deal. Everybody is afraid of it but it's inevitable," admits Henson. "I think you hold on to youth by embracing what's going to happen."

That's certainly the name of the game in *Benjamin Button*, opening Christmas Day, but this highly-anticipated film isn't without another life-affirming message — namely that "our lives are defined by opportunities, even the ones we miss."

"You either catch that opportunity or you miss it and you regret it later or you're happy that you didn't," claims Henson of the film's central theme. "Life is full of circumstances and you just never know."

For Henson, one of those circumstances found her sitting four hours in the makeup chair to seemingly advance her age late in the film. "I personally chose to sit for the whole four hours and let them finish," laughed Henson. "Brad Pitt however had to take breaks which I can understand."

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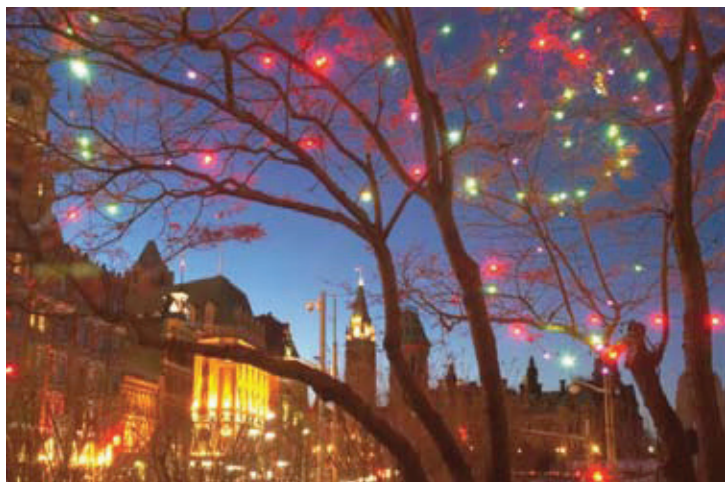
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Movies

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Writer pleased Valkyrie finally found its wings

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



FEATURE Christopher McQuarrie is as shocked as anyone that Valkyrie found its wings. In fact, the award-winning filmmaker — mostly regarded for writing The Usual Suspects — never even expected his latest movie to get off the ground.

“Scripts like this, I write them and put them in a drawer,” admitted McQuarrie — who also co-produced Valkyrie — during a recent phone interview.

The true story of an inside assassination plot against Adolf Hitler in 1944, Valkyrie is definitely the sort of film Hollywood generally shuns like the plague. So what inspired the scribe to script a story he assumed wasn’t sellable?

“The thing that really amazed me was that the assassination itself was not the end of the story,” said



Tom Cruise stars in Valkyrie.

McQuarrie. “Once you’ve killed Hitler, you’ve only just started and now what you have to do is take over his government.”

Lucky for McQuarrie, his Usual Suspects director Bryan Singer (who also helmed X-Men and Superman Returns) shared that sentiment. Throw in Tom Cruise — who plays Stauffenberg, the fascinating mind behind the assassination plot — and there was no looking back for McQuarrie and Valkyrie.

Valkyrie opens Christmas Day across Canada.

Where there’s a Will people

InFocus



Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Will Smith is the world’s biggest movie star: Nobody can touch him. Cruise jumped the couch, Clooney’s movies don’t make any money and Hanks appears to be in semi-retirement. Only Johnny Depp comes close and he is a distant second.

Last year Big Willie took home \$80 million and became the first actor to have eight consecutive movies break the \$100 million mark at the box office, but despite all that success a couple of key qualifiers have eluded his grasp.

His home is probably beautiful, but no movie star abode is complete

without an Oscar or Golden Globe on the mantle. Cruise has three Globes, Clooney an Oscar and Tom Hanks could start a petting zoo with all his Academy Awards.

Smith has none, but it’s not for lack of trying.

He’s best known for playing cops and agents, but in his first big screen role, Six Degrees of Separation, he played a gay con man who claims to be the son of Sidney Poitier. The movie earned an Oscar nod for co-star Stockard Channing, but nothing for Will’s risky performance.

He says that movie taught him to be totally committed to his roles, adding that he now regrets taking Denzel Washington’s advice not to kiss a man on-screen.

“It was very immature on my part,” he says. “I was thinking, ‘What are my friends in Philly going to think about this?’ This was a valuable lesson for me. Either you do it or you don’t.”



Will Smith

In subsequent films, the ones that made him a star, he developed the tools that came to define his on-screen persona; the cocky tilt of the head and hipster charm. Those tricks won over audiences, but don’t win awards.

Then along came a pair of films that put him on the serious-actor-grid, The Legend of Bagger Vance and Ali. Bagger Vance earned poor reviews and even worse box office, but the Michael Mann film about the legendary fighter gave Smith his first Os-

car bait lead role.

For the next few years he seemed content to rule the box office, but two collaborations with Italian director Gabriele Muccino — The Pursuit of Happyness and Seven Pounds, in theatres today — have brought him closer to the award’s circle.

“Gabriele Muccino,” Smith says, “is able to help me create characters that are much different from what I would do on my own.”

Pundits called their first collaboration Pursuit of an Oscar Nomination and you can almost sense him groping for the award in Seven Pounds, but I fear he doesn’t stand a chance this year against Sean Penn, Mickey Rourke and Frank Langella.

He may just have to settle for world domination and leave the awards for the poor folks.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You’ve Never Seen and film critic for CTV’s Canada AM.

GABRIEL MACHT
EVA MENDES
SCARLETT JOHANSSON
AND
SAMUEL L. JACKSON



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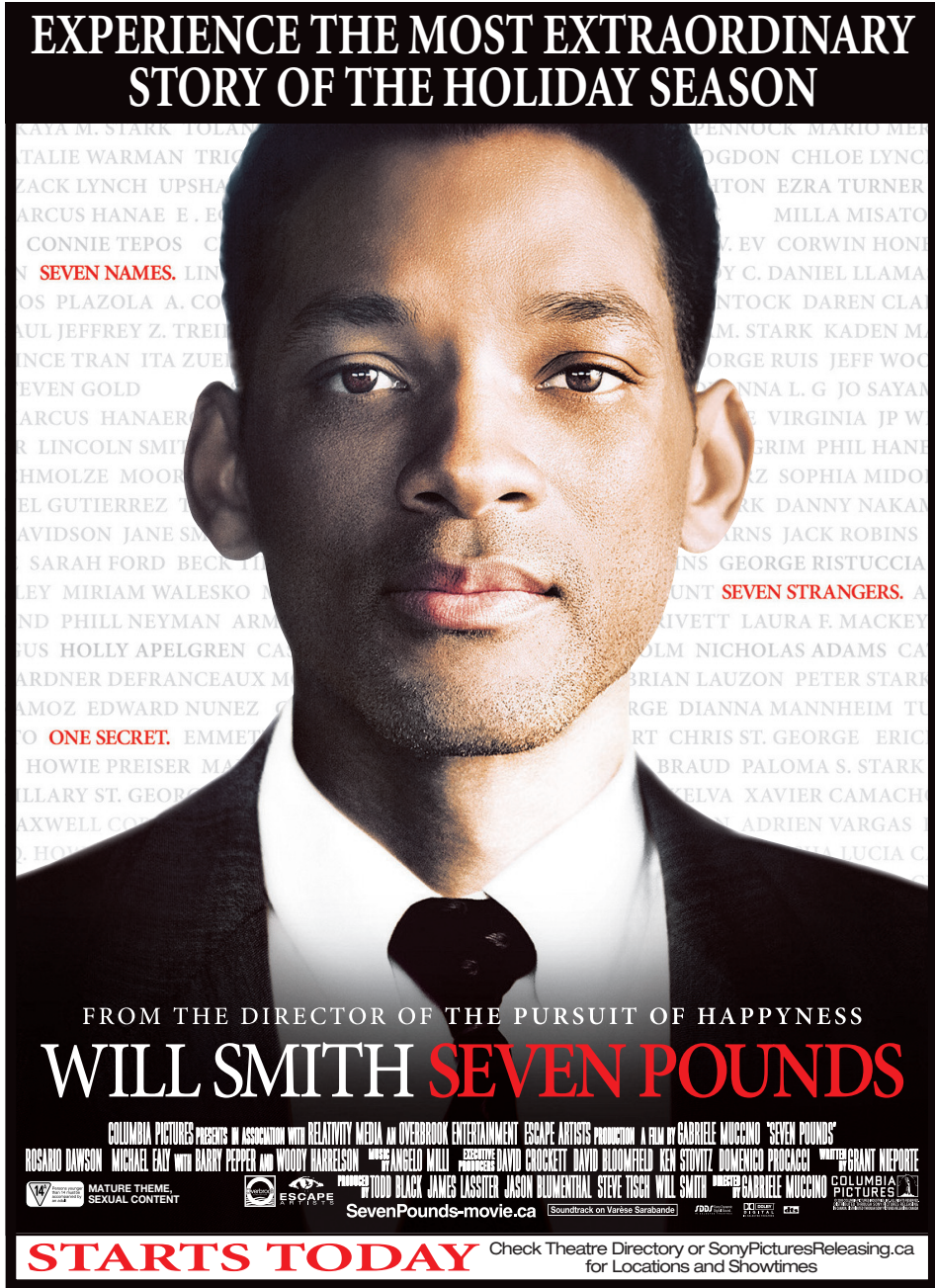
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

WILL SMITH SEVEN POUNDS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN OVERLOOK ENTERTAINMENT ESCAPE ARTISTS PRODUCTION A FILM BY GABRIELE MUCCINO "SEVEN POUNDS"
ROSARIO DAWSON MICHAEL EALY WITH DARRYL PEPPER AND WOODY HARRISON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: FRANKLIN MULLER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: DAVID CHROCKETT DAVID BLOOMFIELD KEN STOLTZ DOMENICO PROACCI
PRODUCED BY TODD BLACK JAMES LASSITER JASON BLUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH WILL SMITH
WRITTEN BY GABRIELE MUCCINO
DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO
CASTING BY JILL KATZ
COSTUME DESIGNER: JILL KATZ
HAIR BY JILL KATZ
MAKEUP BY JILL KATZ
PRODUCTION OFFICE: JILL KATZ
COLUMBIA PICTURES

SevenPounds-movie.ca

STARTS TODAY

Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes



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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 19 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Amal (14A) Sat 2:30 Sun 1:45-6:35
Ashes of Time Redux (14A) Fri 9:15 Sat 4:45 Sun 8:50 Mon 4:30 Tue 9:05 Wed 4:30
Passchendaele (14A) Fri 4:15 Sat 6:50
Tell No One (14A) Fri 6:40 Sat 9:15 Sun 4 Mon 8:50 Tue 6:30 Wed 6:35
The Wizard of Oz (G) Mon 6:35 Tue 4:15

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

Listings not available at press time.

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

Great Natural Wonders of the World (STC) Fri 3 Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30 Thu 6 Fri 4 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30 Thu 7
Nature Scopers: Scope Out the World Around Us (STC) Sat-Sun 9:30-10:30 Sat-Sun 10-11

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-4:20-8 Wed 12:40-4:20
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:10-7:10-9:40
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 2-4:25-7:30-9:55 Wed 2-4:25-7:30 Thu 4:25
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:15 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:40 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:30-9:10 No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:10 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-6:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1:15-3:50-6:20-8:40 Sat 3:50-6:20-8:40 Sun 1:15-3:50-6:20-8:40 Mon 1:15-3:50-6:20 Tue 1:15-3:50-6:20-8:40 Wed 1:15-3:50-6:20 Thu 7:40-9:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:05-7:10-9:20 Wed 1:40-4:05-7:10
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-7:15-10:05
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Sat 3:40-6:50-9:40 Sun 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Mon 12:50-3:40-9:40 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:50-8:30 Wed 1:10-4:50 Thu 4:50-8:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7-10 No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 4-7-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:10-6:40-9 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:10-6:40 No Passes Thu 3:55-6:40-9
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45 Thu 3:40-6:40-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:20-9:45 No Passes Tue 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed 1:50-4:40-7:20 No

Passes Thu 4:40-7:20-10:10

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor
World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-8
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:10-6:40-9 Sat-Tue 1:30-4:10-6:40-9 Wed 1:30-4:10-6:40
Milk (14A) Fri 3:30-4:15-6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 Sat-Tue 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 Wed 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:20 Thu 3:30-6:40-9:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4:30-7:10-9:50 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed 1:20-4:30-7:10 Thu 9
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Sat-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:50-3:50-6:50 Thu 4:20-7:10-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 4-7-10 Sat-Tue 1-4-7-10 Wed 1-4-7 Thu 4:30-7:20-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Thu 3:50-6:50-9:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 3:40-6:20-8:45 Sat-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:20-8:45 Wed 12:40-3:40-6:20 Thu 3:40-6:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:10-7-9:45

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Listings not available at press time.

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218
familycinema.ca

Listings not available at press time.

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre,
1200 St. Laurent Blvd.,
613-688-0850

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Tue 10:40-12:40-2:50-5:10 Wed 10:40-12:40-2:50
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 10:30-1:45-5-8 Sun-Mon 1:45-5 Tue 10:30-1:45-5-8 Wed 1:45 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:30-8 Open Captioned Wed 10:30
Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! (G) Sat 11
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Tue 2:45-4:50-9:20 Wed 2:45
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Tue 10-12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35 Wed 10-12:15-2:35
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sat 10:20-12:50-3:5-20-7:25-9:30 Sun-Mon 12:50-3:5-20-9:30 Tue 10:20-12:50-3:5-20-7:25-9:30 Wed 12:50-3 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:20-7:25 Open Captioned Wed 10:20
The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri-Tue 10:10-12:25-7 Wed 10:10-12:25
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Tue 7:05-9:10

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 7-9:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) SDDS Digital, No Passes Fri 3:45-6:40-9:10 SDDS Digital, No Passes Sat-Mon 1-3:45-6:40-9:10 SDDS Digital Tue 3:45-6:40-9:10 SDDS Digital Wed 1-3:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Wed 1:20
Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Thu 6:40-9:10

Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 3:35-6:20-9 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed 3:35
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 3:40-6:30-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Tue 1:10-3:40-6:30-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed 1:10-3:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 6:30-9:05

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 12-4-8 Wed 12-4
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 10:35-12:45-3:55-15:30-9:45 Wed 10:35-12:45-3:55-15:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:10-4:10-8:10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 10-10:45-12:50-1:30-3:40-4:30-6:30-7:05-9:15-9:45 No Passes Wed 10-10:45-12:50-1:30-4:30-6:30-7:05 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:30-7:05-9:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:05-3:30-6:15-8:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 10-12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50-9 Wed 10-12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50 Thu 12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 10:05-12:30-2:40-5:10-7:30-9:50 Wed 10:05-12:30-2:40-5:10-7:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:20-4-7-9:50
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 10:25-1-4:05-6:55-9:35 Wed 10:25-1-4:05-6:55 Thu 1-4:05-6:55-9:35
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:05-3:05-6:20-9:20 No Passes Wed 12:05-3:05-6:20 No Passes Thu 12:05-3:05-6:20-9:20
The Spirit (14A) Thu 12:35-3:10-7:10-9:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 10:10-12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50 No Passes Wed 10:10-12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30 No Passes Thu 12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 10:15-12:55-3:50-7:15-9:50 Sat 7:15-9:50 Sun-Tue 10:15-12:55-3:50-7:15-9:50 Wed 10:15-12:55-3:50-7:15
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 10:20-1:05-3:45-6:25-9:10 Wed 10:20-1:05-3:45-6:25
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 2-4:30-7:15-9:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 10:30-1:15-3:45-6:35-9:15 No Passes Thu 1:15-3:45-6:35-9:15

GATINEAU
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 12-3-8 Sat 12-3-7-9 Sun 12-3-6 Mon 12-3 Tue 12-3-8 Wed 12
Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Fri 1-10 Sat 1 Sun 4 Mon 4-8 Tue 1
Mommies: Secret des Pharaons (STC) Fri 4-9 Sat 10-4 Sun 10-1 Mon 1-7 Tue 4 Wed 1
Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 11-2-5-7 Sat 11-2-5-8-10 Sun 11-2-5 Mon 11-2-5-9 Tue 11-2-5-7-9 Wed 11-2

CINÉ-CAMPUS UQO
283 rue St-Jean-Bosco, 819-773-1888

Le Déserteur Fri-Sat 8

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne,
819-248-2526

Babine (STC) Fri-Tue 12:50-6:50 Wed 12:50
Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 1:10-3:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed 1:10-3:10
Le Grand départ (STC) Fri-Tue 1-3:10-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 1-3:10
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 12:50-3:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 3:20-9:20 Wed 3:20
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3-6:40-9 Wed-Thu 12:40-3

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest,
819-568-8000

Le Chihuahua de Beverly Hills (G) Fri-Wed 12-1:35-3:10
La cite de l'ombre (G) Fri-Wed 12-1:40-3:20
Des gars modèles (13+) Fri-Tue 3:40-7:35-9:20 Wed 3:40
High School Musical 3: La dernière année (G) Fri-Wed 1:45-3:40-7:25
L'Œil du mal (G) Fri-Tue 5:25-7:30-9:30 Wed 5:25
L'Échange (13+) Fri-Tue 6:35
Transporteur 3 (13+) Fri-Tue 12-4:45-9:05 Wed 12-4:45
Un conte de Noël (G) Fri-Tue 5-9:15 Wed 5
WALL-E (v.f.) (G) Fri-Tue 12-1:50-5:40 Wed 12-1:50

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Babine (STC) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Tue 12:30-3-6:45-9:15 Wed 12:30-3 Thu 3-6:45
Le conte de Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:30 No Passes Sat-Tue 12-2:15-4:30-7:10-9:30 No Passes Wed 12-2:15-4:30 No Passes Thu 2:15-4:30
Le Grand départ (STC) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Tue 1-3:20-7-9:20 Wed 1-3:20 Thu 3:20-7
Histoires enchantées (G) No Passes Thu 3:40-7:05
Le Jour où la terre s'arrêta (G) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:35 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:40-3:10-7:15-9:35 No Passes Wed 12:40-3:10 No Passes Thu 7:10
L'Étrange histoire de Benjamin Button (G) No Passes Thu 2:30-6
Marley et moi (G) No Passes Thu 3:10-7:15
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Monsieur Oui (G) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:30-4-7:20-9:40 No Passes Wed 1:30-4 No Passes Thu 4-7:20
Quatre Noël (G) Fri 7:25-9:40 Sat 3:45-7:25-9:40 Sun-Tue 1:20-3:45-7:25-9:40 Wed 1:20-3:45
Sept vies (G) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:25 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:25 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:30 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:50
Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Tue 12:15-3-6:30-9:10 Wed 12:15-3 Thu 3-6:30
Volt (G) Fri 7:05-9:05 Sat-Tue 1:10-3:40-7:05-9:05 Wed 1:10-3:40

STARCITÉ HULL

115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

007 Quantum (13+) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:55 Wed 1:30-4:15-6:55
Australie (G) Fri-Tue 12:30-4:15-8 Wed 12:30-4:15
Babine (STC) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:15-4:20-7:15
Le conte de Despereaux (G) Fri-Tue 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:05-9:30 Wed 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:05
Le Grand départ (STC) Fri-Tue 11:30-12-2:30-4:25-5-6:50-7:35-9:30-10:15 Wed 11:30-12-2:30-4:25-5-6:50-7:35
Le Jour où la terre s'arrêta (G) Fri-Tue 1:1-35-3:55-4:41-7-7:30-9:40-10:15 Wed 1:1-35-3:55-4:41-7-7:30
L'Échange (13+) Fri-Tue 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:50 Wed 12:10-3:25-6:40
Madagascar 2 : La grande évasion (G) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:35-5:7:25-9:45 Wed 12:15-2:35-5:7:25
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Monsieur Oui (G) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:05-7-9:35 Wed 1:20-4:05-7
Quatre Noël (G) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:40-10 Wed 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:40
Sept vies (G) Fri-Tue 1-4:10-7:10-10:05 Wed 1-4:10-7:10
Transporter 3 (13+) Fri 2-4:50-7:20-10:10 Sat 4:50-7:20-10:10 Sun-Tue 2-4:50-7:20-10:10 Wed 2-4:50-7:20
Twilight (G) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10 Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10
Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:45-6:45-9:50 Wed 12:40-3:45-6:45
Volt (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:15-9:40 Wed 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:15

BARRHAVEN
BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:20-7-9:40
Bolt (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Tue 1-3:50-7-9:30 Wed 1-3:50-7
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:30-8:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 7:30-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30 No Passes Thu 9:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 7:10-9:55 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55 Wed 1:20-4:20-7:10
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-6:40-9:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:50-9:50
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:20 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-4-6:30-9:20 No Passes Wed 12:50-4-6:30 No Passes Thu 4-6:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:50-7:10-10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:10-7:20-10:10

GLOUCESTER
SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-5:10-9
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:40-7:05-9:30 Fri-Tue 12-2:30-4:50-7:30-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:15-1:15-4:10-5:10-7:45-8:45
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-1:45-3:15-4:35-6:15-7:40-8:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 9:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:55
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5-7:25-10:05
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:15-4:25-6:35-8:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:20-3:15-6:20-9
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:20-6:40-9:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-6:25-9:10
The Reader (14A) Thu 12:25-3:30-7:35-10:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:05-4:20-6:55-9:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:35-3:25-6:45-9:15 No Passes Thu 12:35-3:25-6:45
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 1:05-4:20-6:55-9:40 Sat 4:20-6:55-9:40 Sun-Wed 1:05-4:20-6:55-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:10-1:20-3-4:05-6:30-7:15-9:35-10:10 Sat 12:10-3-4:05-6:30-7:15-9:35-10:10 Sun-Wed 12:10-1:20-3-4:05-6:30-7:15-9:35-10:10 Thu 12:10-3-6:30-9:35
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-4:05-7:15-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:50

ORLEANS
ORLEANS TOWN CENTRE 6 CINEMAS
250 Centrum Blvd., 613-834-0666

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 7-9:30
Le conte de Despereaux (G) Sun 4
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:10-7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Tue 1-4:10-7-9:40 Wed 1-4:10 Thu 9:40
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-9:45 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:45 Wed 1:20-4:20
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 6:40-9:25
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:30-9:15 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-3:40-6:30-9:15 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:40 No Passes Thu 6:30-9:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 4-7:10-9:20 Sat 1:10-4-7:10-9:20 Sun 1:10-7:10-9:20 Mon-Tue 1:10-4-7:10-9:20 Wed 1:10-4 Thu 7:10
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:50-6:40-9:30 Sat-Tue 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:30 Wed 12:40-3:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:50-9:35 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:35 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:30 No Passes Thu 6:50-9:15



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The Tale of Despereaux

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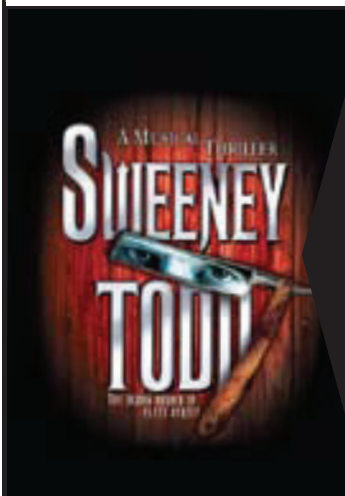
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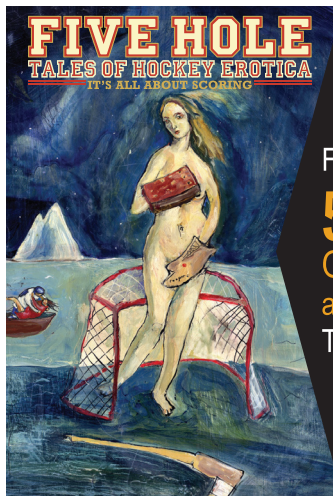
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Music

A Fall-ing out with celebrity

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Folie a Deux is the new album from Fall Out Boy.

If anyone knows a thing or two about celebrity culture, it's Fall Out Boy. The Chicago-turned-L.A. pop punk band doesn't just live near Hollywood, they live the whole paparazzi-eluding, party-hopping experience. So it's no surprise that their new album, *Folie a Deux*, is all about celebrity excess.

"This record is strongly influenced by Hollywood," says singer Patrick Stump. "It's about watching western culture deal with fame and how we've deluded everything to the point of just product."

Rallying against the nature of celebrity, is somewhat ironic coming from a band who counts Pete Wentz, a gossip rag favourite, as a member. The bassist has had a complicated relationship with fame. From his genitals being plastered all over the Internet to a widely publicized marriage with Ashley Simp-

son, he's no stranger to the Hollywood machine.

Stump's well aware that some might think it's odd for the group to take such a staunch stand against pop culture, but he doesn't think it's strange. "It's really easy to not be inside it even if you are inside of it," he explains.

As for Wentz, Stump makes no apologies for his bassist's celebrity status. But he vehemently points out that he's no fame whore. "It's very frustrating," he says. "He does wonderful things because of it."

The album's themes don't just manifest themselves in the lyrics, the music — a blend of high energy '80s rock and punk riffs — is also a response to America's obsession with celebrity. "We've fallen in to Wall Street excess. Cocaine is back in fashion and everyone is full of crap," he says. "That's what I wanted the album to sound like."

Tuning out holiday cheer

SoundCheck

Alan
Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

If you're anything like me, you're close to ODing on Christmas music treacle. I tried to get some shopping done the other day, but after hearing Jose Feliciano sing *Feliz Navidad* yet again, I suddenly realized that I'd rather blowtorch my own toes off than be subjected to more of the same dusty holiday music that's been making the rounds since Coca-Cola invented Santa Claus in the 1920s.

With that in mind, here's another list of decidedly nontraditional holiday songs that really should be more popular:

• **Police Nabbed My Dad/Bobnoxious:** This London, Ont., group have been sending me Christmas songs for the last couple of years and I've loved 'em all. Nothing like a song about your dad being sent to jail

Bobnoxious do their best to avoid the Christmas spirit with *Police Nabbed My Dad*, sung to the tune of *Feliz Navidad*.

set to the tune of the aforementioned *Feliz Navidad*. Get it at bobnoxious-rock.com.

• **Joseph, Better You Than Me/Killers feat. Elton John:** When I spoke to Brandon Flowers last month about their third Christmas single, guitarist Dave Keuning was in another suite in Toronto's Pantages hotel laying down the final guitar tracks. Brandon says that Joseph doesn't get the credit he should for his role in the Christmas story and this song attempts to address that. Listen for Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys to sweeten the vocals about halfway through. Proceeds

to Bono's (RED) foundation. Available on: iTunes.

• **Santa Claus Is Coming to Town/BWC Christmas Orchestra:** If you liked Springsteen's take on this one, you might want to stay away from the near death-metal vocals of this version. Available on: BWC Studios Presents: A Very Metal Christmas.

• **Oh Little Town of Bethlehem/Killdozer:** Definitely not the kind of thing you'll want to play when grandma comes over for Christmas dinner. A bit dysfunctional, to put it mildly. Available on: Hardcore Holiday

• **(We Wish You) A Protein**

Christmas/The Fall: I have no idea what Mark E. Smith is going on about, but the mere fact that he wrote a Christmas song is staggering. Not to be mistaken for a hymn, then. Available on: NO HO HO: Alternative Indie Christmas Anthems, Volume 1.

• **Christmas Is Going to the Dog/Elis:** A deceptively happy-sounding song from the son of the physicist who invented the Many Worlds Theory.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com.

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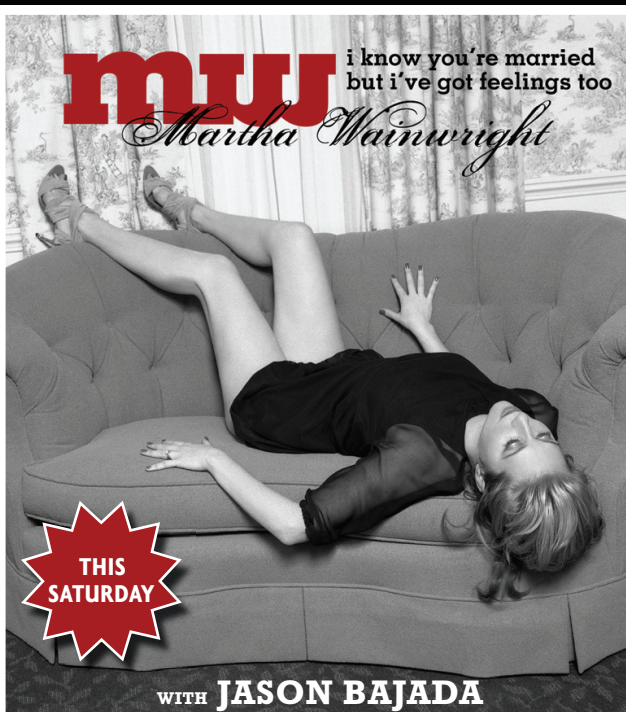
- 1 Live Your Life
T.I. ft. Rihanna
- 2 Right Now (Na Na Na)
Akron
- 3 Love Lockdown
Kanye West
- 4 Katy Perry
Hot N Cold
- 5 Rock N' Roll Train
AC/DC
- 6 Womanizer
Britney Spears
- 7 Poker Face
Lady Gaga
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Swift tops the charts

Teen country star Taylor Swift reclaimed her crown on the U.S. pop album charts this week. Swift's second release, Fearless rose one place to the top after selling 249,000 copies during the week ended Dec. 14. **REUTERS**

**Music****Metro recommends**

• **AMADOU & MARIAM, WELCOME TO MALI:**

African couple deftly blends their musical roots with a myriad of modern styles for a superb new and original sound.



• **THE FLAMING LIPS, CHRISTMAS ON MARS:**

Film score mixes ominous electronic soundscapes and fanciful strings for a healthy dose of engaging weirdness.



• **WE WISH YOU A METAL XMAS AND A**

HEADBANGING NEW YEAR: Old-school rockers blast through boring holiday standards with a metal energy that's both ferocious and fun.

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Matt Lanter is the next newbie to arrive on 90210's West Beverly campus. The actor will play Liam, a bad boy who's ready to rile up the hallways, People reports. [IMDB.COM](#)

Television

Animated metal heads flourish

IntelVision



Rick McGinnis

rick.mcgininis@metronews.ca

BRUTAL: I can no longer give a convincing impression of someone whose world has been transformed by Jay

Leno on primetime, and there's only so much I can say about Canadian Idol's yearlong "rest" without bursting into this disturbing giggle, so I thought I'd take a moment to talk about the second season of my favourite show, now on DVD just in time for Christmas. You don't have to have grown up in a working class suburb in the '70s to love heavy metal, but it certainly

helps, and as far as I can tell, metal fans generally love Metalocalypse, even though it viciously satirizes everything they hold dear. If you haven't managed to catch its brief appearances on Teletoon's adult-only Detour programming block, the premise is simple enough — Dethklok is the biggest band in the world, growing from the 13th to the seventh-largest economy in the world over

the course of the show's two seasons. Try to imagine, say, that Slayer or Cannibal Corpse could cause international riots, or prompt debates at the United Nations. The band — a mix of American and Scandinavian louts — are morons, and when they aren't endlessly debating how to do the most metal thing, they're unsuccessfully dealing with their intimacy issues, or the fact

that they're lousy at doing anything that doesn't involve double-kick triplets or flesh-eating zombies. Not that the world needed such a thing, but Metalocalypse is probably the most perfect take on metal's essence — morbid and epic megalomaniac teenage boy fantasies alongside tawdry, lower-middle-class anxieties.

Fitzcarraldo. The show is at its best when little or nothing is going on but the sorts of digressive, numbskull conversations most men have had a few hundreds of in their lives, enlivened by a few moments of incredibly graphic violence. Basically, it's like spending a night in front of an Xbox with a bunch of boys — teenage or older — ungoverned by female influences, if only for a few precious hours.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)



Kenya Hunt

Exclusive at [metronews.ca/style](#)

McCartney tops Idol wish list

Former Beatle Paul McCartney and pop star Britney Spears are at the top of Simon Cowell's celebrity wish list as possible mentors on the upcoming season of American Idol.

But the chances of getting McCartney to appear on the most-watched American television show seem slim. "We try every year to get Paul McCartney on, but for whatever reason he won't come on," the British judge told reporters on a conference call. Cowell said he would welcome the chance to see Spears on the show, which

returns for its eighth season on Jan. 13. The singer is on a comeback roll with a No.1 album and upcoming tour after almost two years of personal woes. "She would be first on the list. I would love to see her mentor the contestants. But if she doesn't want to do that and she wants to come on the show to perform, I would welcome her any time," Cowell said.



Paul McCartney

REUTERS

FRIDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00			
12/19/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Adventures in Architecture		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat (N)		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin	
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 (HDTV)		Life "Trapdoor" (N)		NUMB3RS "Frienemies"		News (N)	
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)	
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk (N)	Rita MacNeil's Christmas		Eight Days to Live (2006, Drama) Kelly Rowan, (DVS)				News (N)	
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Secret of the Nutcracker (DVS)		Little Mosque		CBC News: The National		The Hour	
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Momma's Boys		Dateline NBC				News (N)	
		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		NUMB3RS "Tabu"		NUMB3RS "Frienemies"		Two/Half Men	
		216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men		King	Cold Case
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends			Crusoe	News (N)
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E News	Momma's Boys		Inside Hollywood		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)	
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap		Supernanny		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)	
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		News (N)		News	
12/20/08	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)					
	406	417	27	net	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at New Jersey Devils, (Live)				Overtime		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central		
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct		Le National	Le Téléjournal	
12/21/08	400	280	30	TSN	Junior Hockey: IIHF World Championship Pre-Competition				SportsCentre		Curling: 2008 Continental Cup				
	554	544	48	TEL	Gremlins *** (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Premiere.				Futurama		Father of Pride		Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo	
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	The Christmas Star (1986, Drama)				(9:03) 'Twas the Night (2001, Comedy)		(10:31) Call Me Claus (2001)			
12/22/08	551	542	65	YTV	Christmas With the Kranks ** (2004, Comedy)				Smallville "Fracture"		Dark Oracle		Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami "Game Over"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds		
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Fight Night						
	616	521	39	SHO	The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard "Live Free"		Teepees		Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities	
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Tornado Rampage		Man vs. Wild (N)		Alcatraz: Living Hell		Daily Planet		
	581	566	53	MTV	4REAL	After Show	Made "Pop Singer"		Whitney: From The Hills to The City				The Hills	After Show	
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Boxed In"		Shockwave		Ultimate Engineering		Ax Men		Crime Stories		
	603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Chef Abroad		The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ace of Cakes	
	12/23/08	265	353	2	TVO	National Geographic		The More the Merrier *** (1943, Comedy)				(10:10) Christmas in Connecticut **			
		211	331	3	GTV	Santa Claus Parade		Doc		Painkiller Jane				Kenny-Spenny	News (N)
		209	342	6	CHRO	Mozart Decoded (DVS)		Magic Flute Diaries (2008, Musical)		Rutger Hauer (DVS)				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Conversation-Prime Minister		Playing House (2006, Romance-Comedy)		(DVS)				Law & Order: SVU	News (N)
208		303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Pittsburgh Penguins (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Blackhawks at Canucks				
-		360	9	NBC	Peter's Pr.		Wheel-Fortune		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		WWE Tribute to the Troops (N)		Law & Order: SVU		
-		362	13	CBS	Paid Program		The Insider (N)		Elf *** (2003, Comedy)		Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart.		48 Hours Mystery (N)		
216		395	14	OMN2	Chinese Rest.		Trendy Zone		My Wife Is a Gambling Maestro (2008, Comedy)		Nick Cheung.		Omni News: Mandarin		
214		344	15	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)				Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Too Cool for Christmas (2004, Comedy-Drama)				
218		345	18	E!	Greatest Myst.		Greatest Myst.		Extreme Makeover: Home				His and Her Christmas (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
-		361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos				Extreme Makeover: Home				Extreme Makeover: Home		
-		365	36	FOX	NFL Football		The OT		The Simpsons		King of the Hill				
12/24/08	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom				Special Investigations				Larry King Live	Newsroom	
	406	417	27	net	NFL Football		Sportsnet Connected				World Combat		World Combat League		
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI		Marie-Claude		A la recherche de Champlain		Le Téléjournal		Rétrospective/hommage à	Regard	
	400	280	30	TSN	Football Night in America				(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	554	544	48	TEL	Looney Tunes Christmas				Tom & Jerry: A Nutcracker Tale				Futurama	Gremlins 2: The New Batch (1990, Fantasy)	
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven		Zoe 101		Life Derek		Han, Montana		Jack Frost ** (1998, Fantasy)		
	551	542	65	YTV	(6) Jack Frost (1998)				SpongeBob		Mystery Hnt.			The Next Star	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)				CSI: Miami "Nailed"				CSI: Miami "Kill Switch"	CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"	
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard "Waheguru"				Christmas Caper (2007, Comedy-Drama)		Shannen Doherty.			The Island ** (2005, Action)	
	520	505	42	DIS	Secret Plot to Kill Hitler (N)								Dark Fellowships: The Vril (N)	MythBusters	
	581	566	53	MTV	Made "Pop Singer"				After Show		After Show		After Show	After Show	
12/25/08	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Switch"				The Worst Jobs in History				Gosford Park *** (2001, Mystery)	Eileen Atkins, Bob Balaban.	
	603	561	95	FN	Challenge				Challenge				Iron Chef America	Unwrapped	
	265	353	2	TVO	Palin-Sahara				The Choir "Boys Don't Sing"		Oliver Twist (2007, Drama)		Timothy Spall.	(10:25) The View	
	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors		American Dad		The Simpsons		King of the Hill			Painkiller Jane	
	209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	
	196	311	7	CTV	Corner Gas		Corner Gas		The Rankin Family Reunion				Would Be Kings (2008, Crime Drama)	(DVS)	
	208	303	8	CBC	Mickey-C'mas		Grinch-C'mas		National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989, Comedy)					CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	
	-	360	9	NBC	Football Night in America				(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	The Unit "Switchblade"	
	216	395	14	OMN2	Hong Kong Express				Aaram		Airang Korea			Word for Word	
	214	344	15	CITY	TBA		2Half Men		According-Jim		According-Jim			According-Jim	
	218	345	18	E!	Greatest Myst.		Greatest Myst.		Extreme Makeover: Home				His and Her Christmas (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos				Extreme Makeover: Home				Extreme Makeover: Home			
-	365	36	FOX	NFL Football		The OT		The Simpsons		King of the Hill					
12/26/08	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom				Special Investigations				Larry King Live	Newsroom	
	406	417	27	net	NFL Football		Sportsnet Connected				World Combat		World Combat League		
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI		Marie-Claude		A la recherche de Champlain		Le Téléjournal		Rétrospective/hommage à	Regard	
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	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors		American Dad		The Simpsons		King of the Hill			Painkiller Jane	
	209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	
	196	311	7	CTV	Corner Gas		Corner Gas		The Rankin Family Reunion				Would Be Kings (2008, Crime Drama)	(DVS)	
	208	303	8	CBC	Mickey-C'mas		Grinch-C'mas		National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989, Comedy)					CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	
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	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	The Unit "Switchblade"	
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	214	344	15	CITY	TBA		2Half Men		According-Jim		According-Jim			According-Jim	
	218	345	18	E!	Greatest Myst.		Greatest Myst.		Extreme Makeover: Home				His and Her Christmas (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos				Extreme Makeover: Home				Extreme Makeover: Home			
-	365	36	FOX	NFL Football		The OT		The Simpsons		King of the Hill					
12/28/08	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom				Special Investigations				Larry King Live	Newsroom	
	406	417	27	net	NFL Football		Sportsnet Connected				World Combat		World Combat League		
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI		Marie-Claude		A la recherche de Champlain		Le Téléjournal		Rétrospective/hommage à	Regard	
	400	280	30	TSN	Football Night in America				(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	554	544	48	TEL	Looney Tunes Christmas				Tom & Jerry: A Nutcracker Tale				Futurama	Gremlins 2: The New Batch (1990, Fantasy)	
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven		Zoe 101		Life Derek		Han, Montana		Jack Frost ** (1998, Fantasy)		
	551	542	65	YTV	(6) Jack Frost (1998)				SpongeBob		Mystery Hnt.			The Next Star	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)				CSI: Miami "Nailed"				CSI: Miami "Kill Switch"	CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"	
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard "Waheguru"				Christmas Caper (2007, Comedy-Drama)		Shannen Doherty.			The Island ** (2005, Action)	
	520	505	42	DIS	Secret Plot to Kill Hitler (N)								Dark Fellowships: The Vril (N)	MythBusters	
	581	566	53	MTV	Made "Pop Singer"				After Show		After Show		After Show	After Show	
12/29/08	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Switch"				The Worst Jobs in History				Gosford Park *** (2001, Mystery)	Eileen Atkins, Bob Balaban.	
	603	561	95	FN	Challenge				Challenge				Iron Chef America	Unwrapped	
	265	353	2	TVO	Palin-Sahara				The Choir "Boys Don't Sing"		Oliver Twist (2007, Drama)		Timothy Spall.	(10:25) The View	
	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors		American Dad		The Simpsons		King of the Hill			Painkiller Jane	
	209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	
	196	311	7	CTV	Corner Gas		Corner Gas		The Rankin Family Reunion				Would Be Kings (2008, Crime Drama)	(DVS)	
	208	303	8	CBC	Mickey-C'mas		Grinch-C'mas		National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989, Comedy)					CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	
	-	360	9	NBC	Football Night in America				(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes				Million Dollar Password				Cold Case "Wings" (N)	The Unit "Switchblade"	
	216	395	14	OMN2	Hong Kong Express				Aaram		Airang Korea			Word for Word	
	214	344	15	CITY	TBA		2Half Men		According-Jim		According-Jim			According-Jim	
	218	345	18	E!	Greatest Myst.		Greatest Myst.		Extreme Makeover: Home				His and Her Christmas (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos				Extreme Makeover: Home				Extreme Makeover: Home			
-	365	36	FOX	NFL Football		The OT		The Simpsons		King of the Hill					
12/30/08	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom				Special Investigations				Larry King Live	Newsroom	
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	520	505	42	DIS	Secret Plot to Kill Hitler (N)								Dark Fellowships: The Vril (N)	MythBusters	
	581	566													

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Going Out

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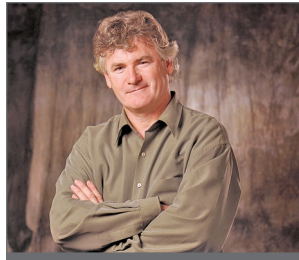
For more great events around the city, visit: metronews.ca/entertainment



The Souljazz Orchestra

When: Tonight, 9 p.m.
Where: Babylon, 317 Bank St.

The masters of funk, soul and Afrobeat celebrate the release of their newest CD, Manifesto, with a return to their old home base on Bank Street. DJ Zattar and surprise guests will also appear. Tickets are \$10.



A Seasonal Celebration with John McDermott

When: Sunday, 7 p.m.
Where: Centrepointheatre, 101 Centrepointheatre Dr.

Acclaimed Canadian tenor John McDermott performs some of his beloved originals, as well as holiday favourites. Tickets are \$12 - \$57. For info visit centrepointheatre.com.



No Other Way

When: Tonight, 9 p.m.
Where: Mavericks, 221 Rideau St.

Hometown punk-metal outfit No Other Way tests out their new bassist with a stacked bill featuring Phat Bastard, Hellbros! and Sadie Hell. Tickets are \$9 at the door.



Martha Wainwright

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Where: Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave.

Her first headlining show in town will feature fierce vocals and cleverly written tracks off her latest album I Know You're Married But I've Got Feelings Too. Guest is Jason Bajada. Tickets \$22.50 through ticketmaster.ca.



Danny Michel

When: Tonight, 9 p.m.
Where: Black Sheep Inn, 420 Riverside Dr., Wakefield, Quebec

The fresh and always energetic folk popster makes a stop in Wakefield with supporting act Jenn Grant. Tickets \$20 through ticketweb.ca.



Bad Boy Bill

When: Tonight, 10 p.m.
Where: Heaven Nightclub, 400a Dalhousie St.

Chicago DJ Bad Boy Bill, known as America's favourite house DJ, brings the beats to Heaven, with club DJ Balu. Tickets \$25 in advance at NormlClothing.com or wanttickets.com.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now



1 Cruising around

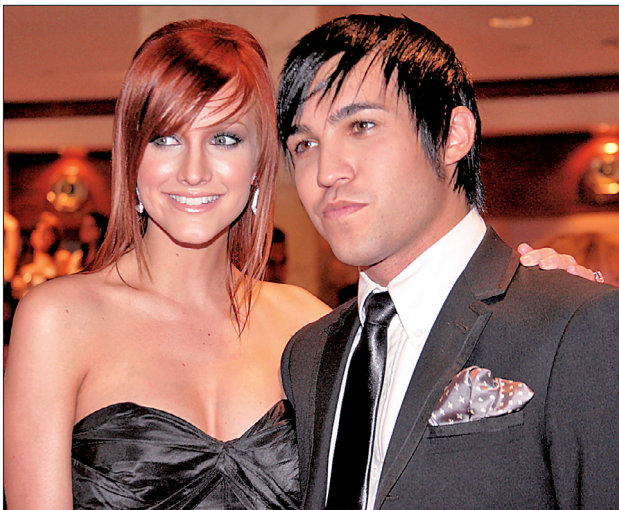
Actor Tom Cruise is back in the spotlight again, this time plugging his Second World War thriller Valkyrie, which hits theatres Christmas Day.

2 Awards season

Movie awards season is well underway, with Golden Globe nominees recently announced, and several film critics' associations having named their top films of the year. Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 22.

3 Geek chic

Large glasses, long socks and checked shirts have been spotted on the likes of pop star Madonna and Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz, heralding a fashion trend to take fashionistas by storm next year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

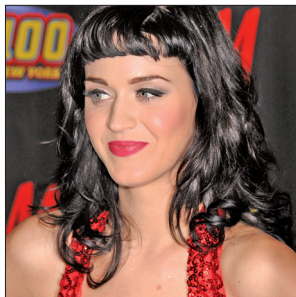


4 Oh, baby

Bronx Mowgli, the name of singer Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz's son, has been crowned the worst celebrity baby name of 2008. About 5,000 visitors to BabyNames.com voted the moniker the most disliked male baby name of 2008. Jagger Joseph Blue — the daughter of actress Soleil Moon Frye and Jason Goldberg — was deemed the worst girl's name.

5 Another celebrity designer?

Katy Perry may start a fashion line, E! News Online reports. The singer says she's always experimented with clothes and cites model Agyness Deyn and burlesque star Dita Von Teese as her fashion icons.

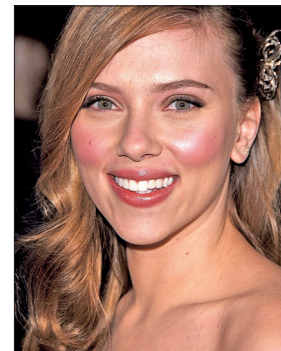


6 Back at the top

Harry Potter series author J.K. Rowling is back on top with The Tales of Beedle the Bard, currently the No. 1 best-seller on Amazon.ca.

7 Scarlett exposure

Actress Scarlett Johansson has been all over the place lately, first co-hosting the Nobel Peace Concert on Dec. 11, then slamming Cosmopolitan U.K. magazine for printing an interview with her she says she never gave, and now comes news she's thinking about putting out another album.



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Saturn Aura

2007 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



Saturn Vue

2008 AJAC Award – Best New SUV/CUV
\$35,000–\$60,000
(Hybrid shown)



Pontiac Vibe

2009 AJAC Award – Best new small car over \$18,000



Chevrolet Malibu

2008 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. **2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over \$18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.

Actress Majel Barrett Roddenberry, the widow of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry and a member of the show's cast, died on Thursday at the age of 76. **REUTERS**

Going Out



A Deloitte study found older people are more likely to watch TV.

Young people watch less TV: Study

TELEVISION Young Americans just aren't watching TV like they used to.

Put another way, the older you get, the more you watch, according to a report due out Thursday from Deloitte indicating that "millennials," the generation of ages 14-25, watch just 10.5 hours of TV a week. That compares with 15.1 hours for those belonging to Generation X (ages 26-42), 19.2 hours for baby boomers (43-61) and 21.5 hours for matures (62-75).

Lest one assume millennials are shunning broad-

cast and cable in favor of watching DVDs on their TV screens, they're not. They spend less time watching DVDs of movies and TV shows on television sets, 4.8 hours a week, than do Gen Xers. They are, though, spending more time watching DVDs on a computer — 1.9 hours a week — than any other age group.

But while millennials are watching the least TV, they are spending the most time with media in general, making that up with video games, music and the Internet. **REUTERS**

Madea creator Perry faces Marshall

How does one of Hollywood's most successful players end up living for nearly two weeks at a Holiday Inn Express in east Texas?

Tyler Perry can blame the peculiarities of federal copyright litigation for a sojourn this month to the dusty city of Marshall.

With a population of 25,000, the home of the annual Fire Ant Festival has become a virtual company town for high-stakes intellectual property cases because of its speedy docket and a reputation for juries prone to large plaintiffs' verdicts.

As popular as Marshall is for patent battles, however, so-called "soft IP" cases like copyright remain a novelty, especially one involving an entertainment mini-mogul whose films and plays have grossed around \$1 billion in box-office and DVD sales.

Forget Madea Goes to Jail. This was Madea Goes to Court.

Perry and Lionsgate, which releases his films,

were sued in May 2007 by Donna West, a Dallas playwright. She claimed that Perry stole portions of her play Fantasy of a Black Woman to create his 2005 breakthrough film Diary of a Mad Black Woman, which introduced moviegoers to Perry's plus-sized alter ego, Madea. West claimed the infringement entitled her to all the profits from the film, which grossed about \$50 million domestically.

Under copyright law, West was required to show that her play and Perry's film are substantially similar and that Perry had access to her work, so she argued among other things that the titles are similar, both are tales of divorce among black couples and both feature a scene involving an abusive man becoming paralyzed.

On the access issue, West claimed she performed the play three times in 1991 in a Dallas theater and that the theater's manager could have slipped it to Perry in 1998 when he pre-

(Marshall) become a virtual company town for high-stakes intellectual property cases because of its speedy docket and ... juries prone to large plaintiffs' verdicts.

sented his plays there.

"That would have meant that Tyler had access to every play at every theater everywhere around the country," says Veronica Lewis, the Dallas lawyer who set up camp in Marshall as Perry's lead trial counsel.

Given the tenuous nature of the access argument, the matter probably should have been dismissed long before trial, as many idea-theft cases are in Los Angeles.

"We were certainly aware of the history of cases in Marshall, and we took that into consideration in

preparing our defence," says Jim Gladstone, Lionsgate's executive vp business and legal affairs. For instance, both sides were permitted only 12 hours to present their cases, requiring witness testimony to be short and sweet.

Jurors were treated to a private showing of Perry's Diary and a reading by West of her play. Screenwriter Bob Gale (Back to the Future) made the trek to one of the only federal courthouses with free and ample parking to serve as an expert witness for Perry. Gale explained the screenwriting process and how the two works weren't all that similar.

In the end, despite its reputation, the East Texas jury took less than two hours to select a foreman and return a defense verdict for Perry.

"I have nothing bad to say about Marshall," says Gladstone, who awaits a likely appeal. "We liked everyone. True Southern hospitality."

REUTERS

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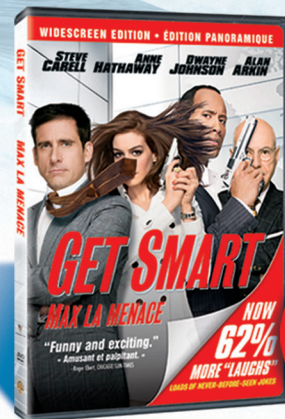
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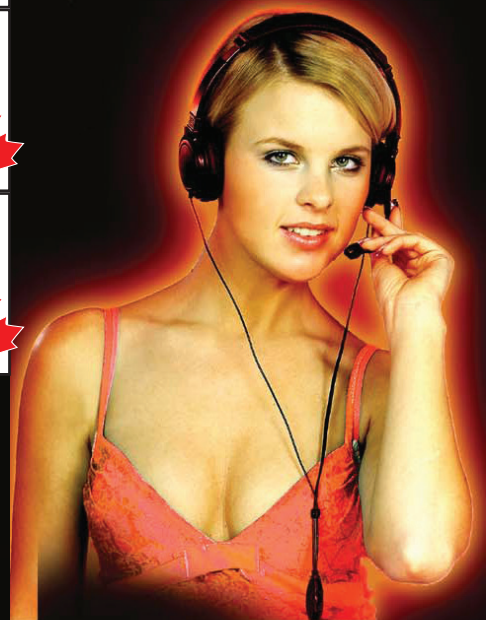
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Leading man Jeremy Piven has suddenly split from the critical and commercial hit Broadway revival of David Mamet's Speed-the-Plow, citing doctors' diagnosis that he's suffering a high mercury count, Variety reports. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Inauguration tops Scarlett's wishlist

PEOPLE Scarlett Johansson stopped by The Tonight Show with Jay Leno this week and told Jay what she's asking Santa for this Christmas.

The 24-year-old actress, who is an outspoken Barack Obama supporter, expressed her desire to attend the Inaugural Ball, femalefirst.com reports.

"From Santa I would like a ticket to the Inaugural Ball," she says. "That's what I want, Santa."



MSN.COM

'No need for money': Emma

PEOPLE Emma Watson has "no need for money in her life," femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

The Harry Potter actress — estimated to be worth £13 million — says, "The wealth side of it hasn't hit me yet because I have no need for money in my life. My life will not be motivated by money."

The 18-year-old also insists she has not adopted a lavish lifestyle, and still uses public transport.

"I have a more normal life than people expect," she told USA Today. "People are like, 'That girl looks like the girl from Harry Potter, but it can't be her on the train.'"



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie and Pitt say no to TV

PARENTING When the holiday season rolls around, Brad Pitt says he and Angelina Jolie aren't big spenders for their brood of six, preferring making crafts to giving pricey presents, people.com reports.

With their luxe lifestyle, how do the youngsters avoid craving tons of holiday loot? By nixing TV.

"The kids don't ask for the big gifts for the reason that they don't see a lot of the American cartoon television, which is packed with all those manipulative commercials

for big toys that look so fantastic," says papa Pitt.

"When they do see that stuff is when they start asking for the toys, so we figure if they don't see them, they won't know they're there. So we have

gifts, but we try to keep the money spent to a minimum."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Whitney's stepmom sues over dad's cash

LEGAL Whitney Houston is being sued by her stepmother for allegedly ignoring the wishes of her late father, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

In the lawsuit filed in a federal court in Newark, the 45-year-old singer is accused of improperly keeping the proceeds of her dad John

Houston's \$1-million insurance policy.

Whitney's stepmother Barbara Houston claims the

money was meant to pay off the \$723,000 mortgage on John's Fort Lee condominium, in New Jersey, where she still lives.

Whitney holds the mortgage on the property. John died from cardiac arrest in 2003, aged 82.

Barbara also claims her late husband wanted the remaining insurance money to go to her.

Lawyers for Whitney and her stepmother declined to comment on the lawsuit.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jodie's relapse led to custody woes?

PEOPLE A judge made a temporary ruling Wednesday that Jodie Sweetin's custody over eight-month-old daughter Zoie must only be in Sweetin's parents' home (where she currently lives) or in her parents' presence, people.com is reporting.

The judge made his ruling after Sweetin recently underwent an emergency investigation by an Orange County, Calif., family court for allegations of substance abuse raised by her estranged husband.

Her es-



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

tranged husband, Cody Herpin, tells People that his "main concern" is to "keep Jodie clean and safe."

Herpin's lawyer, Robert Benavente, tells People the reason for the investigation of Sweetin is "primarily alcohol (abuse) but there's also concern regarding methamphetamines."

"Jodie absolutely has not relapsed into using meth," Sweetin's lawyer Wilma Presley tells People. "She merely confessed to having several glasses of wine over dinner recently and felt

guilty about that. She is currently in a 12-step program and is working hard on her sobriety. She wants to be clean and sober from everything."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Depp ready to marry longtime partner?

RELATIONSHIP Johnny Depp has reportedly bought an engagement ring for partner Vanessa Paradis, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 45-year-old actor asked a high-end California jewelry store to close to the public so he could privately choose a ring for Vanessa, who he has been dating for 10 years.

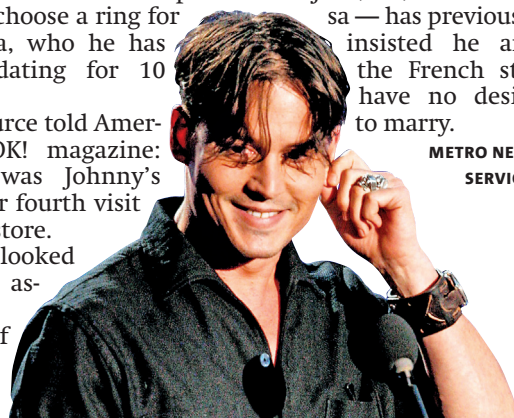
A source told America's OK! magazine: "This was Johnny's third or fourth visit to the store."

"He looked at an assortment of classic soli-

taire diamond rings in platinum settings — a really beautiful selection of elegant and understated rings and made a very large purchase."

Johnny — who has two children, Lily Rose, nine and Jack, six, with Vanessa — has previously insisted he and the French star have no desire to marry.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No more kids, Smith insists

CHILDREN Will Smith doesn't want any more kids, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 40-year-old actor and wife Jada Pinkett Smith — who raise three children together — are instead looking forward to becoming grandparents.

Will said: "Jada and I sat down and asked, 'Where do we see ourselves (in 40 years)?' ... We don't have more children — we have grandchildren."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moss making sexy lingerie

CAREER Kate Moss is set to design and model a range of sexy lingerie, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British beauty has extended her contract with U.K. high street fashion chain Topshop for another three years and can't wait to start work on the new lines — which also includes a range of shoes — due in March.



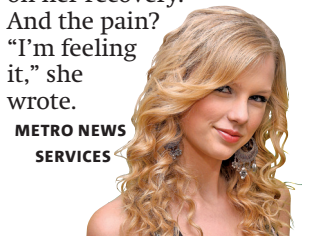
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taylor talks after tooth surgery

PEOPLE It takes more than having her wisdom teeth removed to keep down Taylor Swift, people.com reports.

The singer has been blogging through the pain, keeping fans posted on her recovery.

And the pain? "I'm feeling it," she wrote.



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Take Five

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25				26	27	28	
29				30					31			
32			33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47				48			
49					50				51			

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3		4	2					6
					7			
					5	3		1
7		5				8	1	
1		2					9	6
		3	5				4	8
9				7	8			
					9			
	2					6	5	3

Crossword across

- 1 Spasm
4 Greenish-blue
8 — Bader Ginsburg
12 Historic time
13 Mandlikova of tennis
14 Birthright barterer
15 Gilligan, notably
17 Immediately upcoming
18 Veer
19 Bullwinkle's foe
20 Emulate da Vinci
22 Sketch
24 Shrek is one
25 Us
29 25-Across, e.g.
30 Corridors

- 31 Lubricant
32 Courtroom punishment
34 They give a hoot
35 Forest trek
36 Breathlessness?
37 Bottom point
40 Detail, for short
41 Out of the storm
42 Unable to show versatility
46 Czech or Pole
47 Session with a shrink
48 Vast expanse
49 Stevenson villain
50 Make — meet
51 X rating?

Crossword down

- 1 Sleuth, for short
2 A Gershwin brother
3 Rigid
4 Graph
5 Exhibit ennui
6 Literary collection
7 Aye undoer
8 Fame
9 Addict
10 Urban transport
11 Shacks
16 Melody
19 Ovine vocabulary
20 Spacecraft compartments
21 Chills and fever
22 "La — Vita"
23 Legislation

- 25 Tug hard
26 Sad
27 Marathon fraction
28 "Born Free" lioness
30 Estate recipient
33 Rob
34 Mostly Mideastern cartel
36 Mimics
37 Doggerel Ogden
38 Partner in crime
39 Out of play
40 Tater
42 Commonest English word
43 Thither
44 Witness
45 Erstwhile M&M's hue

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

B	L	A	B		B	E	D		K	E	P	I
L	A	V	A		E	A	R		O	X	E	N
O	M	I	T		R	U	E		S	T	A	N
C	A	V	I	T		S	C	A	R			
				S	I	L	K	S	C	R	E	E
S	M	O	T		L	E	D		M	A	O	
H	A	V	E		D	I	D		J	E	T	S
E	S	E		H	E	M		P	U	S	S	Y
S	C	R	E	E	N	T	E	S	T			
				T	A	R	T		M	I	L	D
T	H	I	S		I	M	P		A	R	I	A
S	O	M	E		S	A	T		N	A	R	Y
P	E	F	I		T	R	Y		D	Y	E	S

8	7	1	4	2	5	6	3	9
2	3	5	1	6	9	8	7	4
9	4	6	7	8	3	1	5	2
4	1	3	8	9	2	5	6	7
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	1	8
5	9	8	6	7	1	2	4	3
3	8	4	9	5	6	7	2	1
7	5	2	3	1	8	4	9	6
1	6	9	2	4	7	3	8	5

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
13-17 min.....Scholar

- 17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Halibut Steaks with Tomato and Bell Pepper Salsa

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 halibut steaks, about 5 ounces each
4 tbsp (60 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
Fresh juice of 1 small orange
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 orange, cut into wedges, to garnish
Tomato and Bell Pepper Salsa
2 medium plum tomatoes, seeded and diced
1/2 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
1/2 red onion, finely chopped
Fresh juice of 1 small orange
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped fresh basil
1 tbsp (15 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 tsp (5 mL) sugar
Salt and fresh-ground pepper

METHOD:

1. Place halibut steaks in shallow glass bowl. Mix together oil, orange juice, garlic, salt and pepper to taste, and

- spoon over fish steaks; set aside.
2. For salsa, put tomatoes, bell pepper, red onion, orange juice, basil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper to taste in medium bowl and stir. Spoon into serving bowl and chill until needed.
3. Heat lightly-oiled, ridged cast-iron grill pan or skillet over high heat. Place fish steaks on grill pan or in skillet and fry, basting from time to time with oil mixture, until fish just flakes easily, 2 to 3 minutes on each side
4. Place fish steaks on warm serving plates and grind black pepper over. Garnish with orange wedges and serve with salsa.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A trustworthy person has remarkable news. A disturbance can produce a warning. You'll want to escape from a weird dilemma.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

A disagreement about benefits will lead to teasing. A friend will happily agree to make changes. A separation leads to a breakthrough.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Reorganize a sluggish system right away. A threat will jog somebody's memory. You can get ahead by leaving a sad place.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Show your support when a relationship begins. An eccentric person is making a big mistake. A friend causes a hullabaloo.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

An amiable manner influences a realist. Don't count your blessings in public. You shouldn't push optimism to a cynical person.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Some people will be switching partners. By not worrying, you can correct a problem. Yield to the facts, no matter what happens.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A prosperous guy needs medical attention. Shabbiness will not be acceptable to a lady. Don't be a fool when crossing a street.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

A lenient person will be receptive. A disturbing tempest threatens to interfere with funds. It's wiser not to complain about hostility.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Check your documents carefully. A magnificent man takes the other side in a conflict. Difficulties arise when you are too aggressive.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Never smirk when someone is discussing their ego. Some mighty odd events will make you flinch. Don't defend your spending with a whiner.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Time passes slowly while awaiting a disclosure. A decent man gives a warning about unreliability. An alarmist rouses the neighbourhood.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

An ill friend will discuss his personal agony. Your lack of concern is the point of a story. Keep your side of a bargain.

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1. Writer Edgar Allan's troubles (1)
2. Use paste to fix a pump or mule (1)
3. Ebony-colored ship chimney (1)
4. Private teacher for a wooer (2)
5. Imitate a trick that attracts business (2)
6. Ballet performing in Michigan's capital (2)
7. Weight-raising bodybuilder's brandy glasses (2)
ANSWERS: 1. MIMIC GIMMICK 2. GLUE SHOE 3. BLACK STACK 4. SUITOR TUTOR 5. MIMIC GIMMICK 6. LANSING DANCING 7. LIFTERS SNIFTERS
12-19-08

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